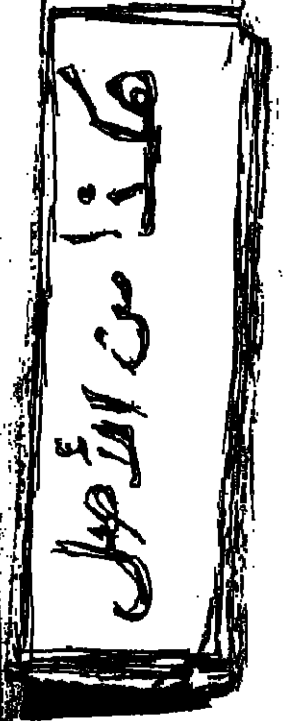


The German Tribune

Hamburg, 14 October 1979
Eighteenth Year - No. 911 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Sceptical reaction to Brezhnev offer

It is strange that the immediate response to Mr Brezhnev's announcement that the Soviet Union is to unilaterally reduce its troop strength and firepower in Central Europe has been one of scepticism.

The figures the Soviet leader mentioned have been contrasted with others in, the clear intention of making his planned troop cuts appear a no more than token reduction.

To hear the pundits talk you would think the withdrawal of 20,000 Soviet troops and 1,000 tanks from the GDR was neither here nor there.

The Kremlin currently has between 340,000 and 400,000 men stationed in Central Europe. Nato's 7,000 tanks face 20,500 of the Warsaw Pact.

Besides, the argument continues, who can tell whether Mr Brezhnev is withdrawing fighting units or just support forces and mothballed tanks?

His offer to reduce in number Soviet medium-range missiles has met with even greater scepticism, especially as Mr Brezhnev does indeed make this move dependent on a corresponding concession by the West.

Western Europe, he says, must in return not base additional medium-range nuclear missiles on its territory.

The obvious (and convenient) answer to this challenge is that the Soviet offer is intended to accomplish no more than the stabilisation of a strategic advantage the Kremlin currently enjoys.

This is the counter-argument advanced by what are customarily described as well-informed Nato circles.

The offer of "fine-sounding but objectively inadequate prior concessions," as Christian Democratic defence expert Alois Mertes describes Mr Brezhnev's bid, is mere window-dressing.

In their assessment of a troop-cut offer of this kind, defence experts must naturally compare military data and make an evaluation of the facts.

But before their advice is followed it is worthwhile recalling that detailed knowledge not infrequently leads to hairsplitting.

The results vary, depending which expert has done the counting. Take, for instance, the disparity in East-West missiles with a range of less than 1,000km, or 625 miles.

The Bonn Defence Ministry recently estimated that the Warsaw Pact had 1,370 to Nato's 386, whereas the London Institute of Strategic Studies reached the reassuring conclusion that the gap was a mere 1,039 to 960.

The MBFR Vienna troop-cut talks are in deadlock mainly because the two sides have run aground in their estimates of respective manpower and numbers of main battle tanks and combat aircraft.

Having been unable to agree on terms of reference by which estimates were undertaken, they logically failed to agree in the number they arrived at.

Yet Western experts have often lamented that the Soviet Union was not prepared to yield one iota in these algebra exercises and obdurately insisted on its definition of parity.

Now Moscow is willing to reduce its front-line manpower (on this at least there can be no dispute), Western pundits are still reluctant to admit that Mr Brezhnev's unilateral move will make the slightest difference.

The Kremlin has hitherto defended its military potential in Central Europe to the last decimal point. Is the withdrawal of 20,000 men to be dismissed with a mere flick of the thumb across a slide rule?

The Soviet leader's declaration deserves serious consideration, especially the offer he makes subject to a condition.

True, the Soviet Union is only prepared to reduce the number of its medium-range missiles (the ones that worry Western Europe) on condition that Nato undertakes not to build comparable missiles of its own.

But this is the first time the Kremlin has even been prepared to discuss its potential in this sector, and negotiability was what Nato hoped to accomplish by deciding this December to go ahead with plans to build medium-range missiles.

So is it just a propaganda bid aimed at pre-empting the West's position? There are sure to be Kremlin hawks who reckon Mr Brezhnev's offer is an extremely dangerous concession to the West.

The West should not underestimate the Soviet leader's success in overruling his hawks on this point. Mr Brezhnev's offer may be a one-off, once-only, never-to-be-repeated bid. It could be an opportunity the West cannot afford to miss.

Hans Werner Kettenbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 6 October 1979)

IN THIS ISSUE

In lighter vein

President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France (left) in a light moment with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt during the French leader's visit to Bonn. (Photo: Sven Simon)



The Federal Republic of Germany's Defence Minister, Hans Apel (left) is welcomed to Washington by the American Defence Secretary, Harold Brown. (Photo: dpa)

Apel pulls no punches over defence

Bonn Defence Minister Hans Apel has always favoured plain speaking. He calls a spade a spade and doesn't beat around the bush. He was certainly true to his reputation in Washington.

He was straight to the point about what Bonn and America's other European allies expect: Congressional ratification of the Salt II terms negotiated by President Carter and the Kremlin as soon as possible.

Congress, especially the Senate, is dragging its feet on Salt II. It remains to be seen when it will reach a final decision, let alone which way the vote will go.

The outcome is uncertain despite the confidence exuded by Gerhard Schröder, chairman of the Bundestag foreign affairs committee.

It is certainly not a feeling of confidence shared by Herr Apel.

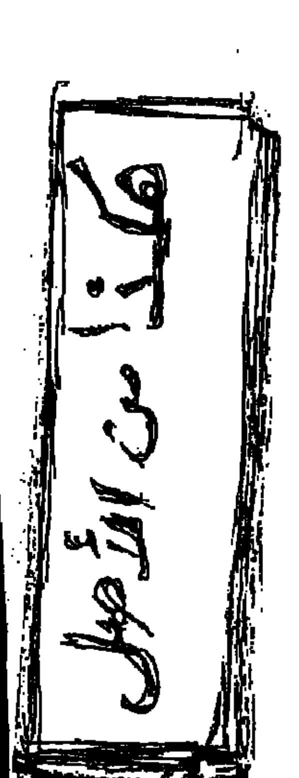
President Carter's position has long been one of patent weakness, and his loss of authority has unduly strengthened the hand of influential Senators.

So it was only right for the Bonn Defence Minister to point out on the spot to the men who currently hold the whip hand in Washington how Europe feels.

Europe is worried by the delay and fears the repercussions of a Salt failure.

America's partners are dependent in their plans and decisions on what the United States decides. They must also be

Continued on page 2



■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Pope's to-the-point speech hits home to millions

What Pope John Paul II told the United Nations was nothing new, but it was very much to the point — so much so that the representatives of the 152 UN members must have felt that the appeal wass directed at them personally.

And as the delegates gave the Pope a standing ovation, millions all over the world will have echoed the sentiment as they watched on their *television* screens.

The general reaction was: "It is high time that somebody said it."

Many who did not promptly redirect their attention to everyday problems may have wondered whether the Pope's speech would have any lasting effect.

Was it just Papal show business or had John Paul II's address to the UN made any contribution towards a change for the better in world affairs?

It is 14 years since a Pope first addressed the United Nations with a moving appeal for world peace. "No more war" was Paul VI's message in 1965.

Was it made to no effect or did it have some effect after all? It certainly established a point of reference to which men of goodwill might refer.

World affairs, to which the appeal was primarily addressed, heedlessly continued as always, of course. Warfare and violence, injustice and oppression did not vanish from the agenda.

As for the United Nations, it was already showing signs of degeneration and they were neither corrected nor overcome as a result.

Far from fostering world peace, the annual General Assembly merely provided a convenient opportunity for incitement and propaganda and precious little for peacemaking bids.

Is it fair to conclude from this that Pope Paul made a mistake in foolhardily staking Papal prestige and demonstrating to all and sundry the impotence of the Christian message of peace?

John Paul II, whose career would surely seem to indicate that he was much wiser to the ways of the world, was in no way disheartened by his predecessor's "failure."

He pluckily followed in Paul VI's footsteps, knowing (as his performance consistently shows) that he cuts a better figure and accordingly commands much more authority.

This extra authority that is miraculously his is, he feels, an overriding missionary obligation he must try to fulfil regardless of misgivings and heedless of success or failure.

He is endowed with personality and a power over mankind that destines him to plead the cause of humanity and also allows him to be more specific, even directly political.

What he had to tell the UN General Assembly, a task he accomplished in sovereign and convincing fashion, was nothing new, of course. But it was so much to the point that many representatives of the 152 UN members must have been taken aback.

The apostle of human rights which Pope John Paul is increasingly coming to be regarded as, did not make do with generalisations and principles.

He made no bones about what human rights are and human dignity is: the right to freedom of expression, freedom of education and the arts, freedom of conscience and religious belief, freedom of property, labour and fair wages, freedom of political co-determination and freedom of movement both at home and abroad.

He went on to contrast protestations of the desire for peace with the simultaneous arms race and to stigmatise the dreadful inequality of exaggeratedly rich and bitterly poor peoples.

Which bloc, which front, which party anywhere in the world could afford to behave as though it were not meant and did not share a seat in the dock?

Pope John Paul II, by declaring that any threat to human rights is a threat to peace and a fertile soil for warlust, established standards.

Unerringly they are bound to reduce self-righteousness to ridicule wherever and in whatever form it puts in an appearance.

He also heaped glowing embers on the UN's head, giving the fully present family of nations a piece of his mind that put them in default and called on them to prove their worth.

Reference to the Middle East crisis, the only contemporary conflict to which the Pope referred, was, as he made it, a regular commission that would show what the UN is at all capable of accomplishing.

The Pope by no means understood his role to be that of a crisis manager or offered his services in this department, as media commentaries tended to suggest.

He merely emphasised well-known, long-established truths about a pressing problem. He pointed out, for instance, that there could be no solution that did not take the Palestinian problem into account.

He also reminded the General Assembly that there could be no peace in Jerusalem which did not heed the claims of all three major world religions to the Holy City.

The Pope certainly did not visit New York in pursuit of politics. He is a powerless individual whose sole power lies in the ability to give expression to a voice, the voice of mankind, and what, in many cases, is an unconscious desire.

Many are goodwilled without really knowing what contribution they can make to the improvement of the world. The Pope's call for peace shows them the way: to take action everywhere injustice great or small is done.

Albert Wucher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 October 1979)

Continued from page 1

able to rely on the US President's word, as Herr Apel told Capitol Hill.

Unaccustomed to plain speaking by a visitor from Bonn, both Senators and members of the House were not slow to hit back, so much so that Chancellor Schmidt and Bonn government spokesman Klaus Bölling felt obliged to lend Herr Apel verbal support.

They said nothing he had not already said, but couched it in more diplomatic language.

Relations between Bonn and Washington are still good, and the problem is not that Bonn has taken, say on Europe's behalf, to pressuring Washington.

The problem is in Washington, where the weakness of the President's position has led to more or less coincidental Congressional majorities determining the guidelines of US government policy.

At times this leads to a somewhat erratic course that confuses America's allies.

Hans Wolff

(Nordwest Zeitung, 6 October 1979)

Mankind 'is at the crossroads'

Aurelio Peccei, chairman of the Club of Rome, has appealed for a humanisation of society.

Mankind, he said, stood at the crossroads. The choice lay between a glorious future and chaos and catastrophe.

This was the message of his opening address to the 11th annual general meeting of the Club of Rome, the body that has been dubbed the "conscience of mankind."

Held of West Berlin's new International Congress Centre from 3 to 6 October, its theme was: "The Next Ten Years — Dangers and Opportunities."

Professor Peccei cited as evidence of the "steadily deteriorating situation" 10 individual processes that mutually affect and complement each other.

Between now and the turn of the century the world's population would increase by a further two billion, making it five times the size it was in 1900, while consumption would have increased fiftyfold.

It would be impossible to house this enormous mass of people satisfactorily, let alone to employ them suitably or supply them fittingly with goods and services.

Already a quarter of mankind lived in absolute poverty and unmitigated hardship.

The biosphere was in jeopardy too. At the present rate of growth the world's tropical rain forests shuld have disappeared by the end of the century.

Stagnation and inflation were undermining world trade, so much so that "industrial civilisation itself (was) being called into question."

Defence budgets were reaching new and frightening record levels. Social shortcomings such as injustice and intolerance were still on the increase.

Unhampered growth of science and technology was progressing torrentially, without the slightest possibility of fairly sharing costs and benefits.

Political order was based on anachronistic, poorly functioning national and international institutions. What was more, there was a worldwide shortage of political and moral leadership.

Professor Peccei called in particular on mankind to learn. Mankind's intellectual capacity ("this untapped; all-pervading potential") had hitherto virtually lain idle.

The younger generation must be harnessed to help plan the future. Representatives of the younger generation were to discuss blueprints for the future at a special working party in Berlin.

At a press conference he had already noted that older people who currently hold responsibility tended to look on the year 2000 as a distant future.

Yet what today's politicians and scientists got wrong would have to be sorted out by the younger generation.

Learning was not only a matter of the exact sciences but must also be understood to include all aspects of human existence.

Mayor Dietrich Stobbe of West Berlin referred to the keyword "automation" in his opening address. If the growth in productivity in West Germany since 1960 had been invested exclusively in shorter working hours, he said, we could now be working a mere six months in the year.

This, of course, presupposed a static per capita income and full employment, but as Mayor Stobbe asked: "Would society not have gained in humanity as a result?"

The conference was staged by Reinhard Bühling, a member of the board of governors of DSE, the West German International Development Foundation.

He said the DSE would be checking the report of the Brandt Commission on North-South relations for practical and political feasibility and submitting it to the United Nations.

The Club of Rome published its latest report, entitled "The Human Dilemma — Future and Learning," on 6 October.

It was compiled by James W. Botkin of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mahdi Elmandjara of Rabat, Morocco, and Mircea Malica of Bucharest, Rumania.

At working parties the conference dealt with topics such as: The Industrialised Countries Between Crisis and New Order, Microelectronics — A New Dimension in Technological Change and Automation, Future and Learning.

Working parties were also to discuss the growing arms budgets and further social aspects of technological progress. About 250 personalities were due to attend.

Professor Peccei was a founder member of the Club of Rome, set up 11 years ago. It is a loosely organised association of individuals, 100 people from 35 countries.

Its declared aim is to draw the attention of world opinion to global problems. It h hopes to pave the way for a rational scientific solution of these problems.

In the interest of world peace it aims to exert influence on individual governments and international organisations.

Contrary to its past opinion it is no longer exclusively opposed to industrial growth. It advocates organic growth and a fairer international share-out of the proceeds.

Karl Grobe

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 October 1979)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 65 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn, Tel.: 21 90 00. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 13 — Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Schmidt's energy policy gets full support



A grand coalition of ruling politicians in Bonn and the *Länder* now supports the energy policy of the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt.

Herr Schmidt won the backing of leading Social Democrats and trade union leaders in confidential talks this summer. And he recently met the *Land* Prime Ministers with the aim of reaching an agreement on continuing the Bonn atomic energy policy after years of deadlock.

There is no doubt of the goodwill on both sides. If Land Prime Ministers had their way, the struggle against the use of atomic energy, carried out with the rigour and moralism of a war of religion, would no longer be able to hamper the Bonn Government's ability to act.

The Bonn compromise meets the legal requirement that there should be safe dumps for atomic waste so that the go-ahead can be given to build and operate atomic power stations.

Despite all other clashes of interest and party rivalries, a grand coalition of ruling politicians in Bonn and the *Länder* now supports Helmut Schmidt's energy policy. Insofar as political and administrative decisions are capable of solving a political conflict of this magnitude, this has been done.

Who could have predicted this agreement in principle at all the highest levels of leadership this spring, when the Harrisburg reactor accident and Lower Saxony Prime Minister Ernst Albrecht's refusal to support the Gorleben project seemed to force the Chancellor to fight a running battle?

However, in the long run, atomic energy will need wider support among the general public than it has at the moment. It is not enough that the ruling parties favour the expansion of atomic energy when some regional Social Democratic organisations are speaking out against the building of new atomic power stations and others want a gradual abandonment of atomic energy. There was nothing accidental about the recent SPD party conference results in Hamburg, Hesse and Lower Saxony. Here, most delegates acted as if the compromise between the Chancellor and the Land Prime Ministers two days previously had never been reached. Leading Social Democrats must have been feeling very queasy this week as they discussed what arguments on atomic energy they will present to win over the majority at the national conference of the SPD in Berlin in December.

In this respect, the Bonn compromise could prove extremely useful, as it offers several possibilities for the disposal of atomic waste and not just one. The agreement envisages the setting up of interim dumps for used atomic rods. The rods would be stored there for 15 years. The final atomic waste disposal site is to be in the salt mines of Gorleben. At the same time experts will study the possibility of reprocessing atomic fuel and gaining plutonium in smaller decentralised plants. Originally, disposal and reprocessing were to take place in a mammoth centre in Gorleben, but this plan was rejected by Lower Saxony Prime Minister Ernst Albrecht. The possibility of storing fuel without reprocessing it will also be examined — but this variant is uneconomic. At any rate, the idea of the integrated disposal centre — reprocessing plus final storage — is no longer seen as the only possibility.

The real decision of principle on disposal of atomic waste may therefore not be made until the nineties. Sometimes gaining time can be all-important in such delicate political issues. Is this true of atomic energy? In the short term the question is whether the Social Democrats will support the Chancellor's atomic energy policy without merely adopting a resolution into which everyone can read what they like — as they did two years ago.

A refusal would lead to dramatic consequences. Two years ago, and again last December, Helmut Schmidt's threat to resign if his energy policy was not accepted left no doubt of his determination and he is now in a more favourable position than ever before. Herr Schmidt is not prepared to be an anti-atomic energy Chancellor — and this may be decisive at the party conference; or the party would have to put up with Herr Schmidt's disregarding its wishes.

Kurt Becker

(Die Zeit, 5 October 1979)

Strauss not to appear at hearing

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The Shadow Chancellor, Franz-Josef Strauss, has decided not to make a personal appearance at the court hearing involving himself and Social Democrat Egon Bahr.

Herr Bahr took the action over an allegation by Herr Strauss that Herr Bahr had been "the real initiator" of demonstrations when the Bavarian leader was making his tour of North Rhine-Westphalia last month.

Herr Strauss seems to have sensed for some time that his political standing would not be enhanced by his dispute with Herr Bahr.

So instead he decided to send along CSU general secretary Edmund Stoiber instead.

Not exactly a sign of courage, but understandable. After all, who likes to hear in court that he failed to examine the truth of what he was saying as closely as one might expect from a candidate for the chancellorship, a politician known for his sharp tongue.

Herr Strauss and Herr Stoiber would have been glad to avoid the case in Bochum. They had already tried several times to play down their claim that Herr Bahr was the real initiator of the anti-Strauss demonstrations during meetings in North Rhine-Westphalia.

However, they only started this change of heart when Herr Bahr carried out his threat and went to court. As long as it was only a matter of a retraction, Herr Strauss did nothing, because he did not take the threat seriously.

Sparks often fly in election campaigns, not only in Bavaria. It would be disastrous if politicians were taken to court for every mistaken or insulting remark they made.

However, given the many elections coming up and the intensity of the parties' struggle for power, the Bochum judgment could be of basic significance importance, — at least if politicians regard it as a warning and admonition not to turn the election campaign into uncontrollable all-in wrestling.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 October 1979)

The media: how it can influence votes

Interest in the influence of the media on voters has increased since the advent of television. Decades ago, American scientists amazed the general public with their revelation that the ability of press, radio and advertising to manipulate was far less than was generally believed.

They found that the media tended far more to reinforce existing opinions and prejudices than to change them.

Why was this so? Quite simply because most people chose to watch and read what suited them. No one likes to have his point of view challenged.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, election expert Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann introduced the concept of the "spiral of silence" after the 1972 general election. This was based on the familiar phenomenon of socialisation whereby people like to live in harmony with and not isolated from their environment.

Political elections, according to Frau Noelle-Neumann, were therefore to some extent determined by the voters' view of what was the dominant — and therefore probably the winning — opinion. Frau Noelle-Neumann's theory became nonsensical however when she claimed that journalists, the majority of whom, especially in TV, were left-wing, had created a climate of opinion in which they pretended that the Opposition had no chance. This meant that the Opposition was deprived of its chance of victory, she said.

A colleague of Frau Noelle-Neumann has expanded on this view at a recent congress of political scientists in Augsburg. He said it was not the journalists but the cameramen who were behind the manipulation. He said they manipulated voters' opinions 1976 elections at least. Maybe there is more to come. Perhaps we should look also investigate the influence of TV make-up girls on the way people vote!

(Süddeutsche Zeitung 4 October 1979)

Don't resign, Hamburg's mayor is told



Hamburg Social Democrats do not want Mayor Hans-Ulrich Klose to resign over the Stolzenberg scandal. At an extraordinary meeting they voted almost unanimously against Herr Klose stepping down.

Justice Senator Frank Dahrendorf has alreadys resigned over the affair, which involved the discovery of a cache of nerve gas last month in a disused Hamburg chemicals factory.

A boy died of injuries sustained while playing with chemicals found in the grounds of the factory.

The aim of the SPD leadership at the extraordinary meeting was to prevent Herr Klose, winner of the Senate election in the spring of this year, being unsaddled because of the scandal and to prevent 'a gradual' dismantling of the Senate that he leads.

Once again, Ulrich Hartmann, chairman of the SPD in the Hamburg city parliament, proved a crucial figure. Not only in the *Land* party but also among delegates he played a major part in fixing the criteria for resignation in such cases: "only for direct personal error." And direct personal error only occurs when a senator has failed to act on documents which he has seen.

Critics of this view pointed out the dangers it involved. Some warned that this meant that the concept of political responsibility had become a farce. Helga Schulz, for example, explained what she meant by political responsibility: "Willy Brandt certainly did not know that Guillaume was a spy. And Georg Leber certainly did not know about the phone-tapping scandals in the Ministry of Defence. But they both resigned honourably."

However, Frau Schulz said that this meant she only wanted the senators responsible to resign and not Mayor Klose. "Senators are dispensable but our Mayor is not," she said. This well-meant demonstration of solidarity with Mayor Klose was generally appreciated.

This was not the case with the speakers who argued against further immediate resignations among senators. Oswald Paulig, Hamburg *Land* chairman, said: "Senators do not have the right to give up office as if it were an old hat. They have their mandate from the party and it is tied to the party."

Jörg Kuhbier warned: "We have a toxic chemicals scandal, not a crisis of state." Hermann Scheunemann said: "The problems that have arisen here cannot be solved by the rolling of heads."

This was also the view of delegate Hans-Ulrich Klose. He said that all the senators had considered resignation. But, he said, "anyone who resigns now is holding up a white feather and leaving the others to clear up the problems." The main thing now was to clear up the scandal without respect of persons, to eliminate the danger and to make the authorities serve the citizens again.

After four hours of an at times heated debate a resolution containing the points proposed by Klose was accepted with only five votes against. All demands for resignation were rejected with similar majorities.

What malaise remains is about the Senate's attitude — not only among the SPD rank-and-file.

Hilmar von Bülow

(Vorwärts, 4 October 1979)

■ POLITICS

CDU gains, but election confirms old pattern



The Christian Democratic Union strengthened its position slightly in the North Rhine-Westphalia local elections.

But the changes were so small that the poll merely confirmed the distribution of political power as it has been in the *Land* for more than a decade.

Before the election, the CDU was a little apprehensive because it was not known what effect on public opinion the rally appearances of the shadow chancellor, Franz-Josef Strauss, had had.

The relief after the election was great. The CDU had outstripped the Social Democrats still further.

CDU sceptics who spoke of disorientation among their own ranks were proved wrong. Though Franz-Josef Strauss' appearance at rallies did not have a noticeably positive effect, it also did not adversely affect the election.

SPD losses were average, although Johannes Rau, North Rhine-Westphalia's SPD chairman and prime minister, failed to achieve the election target and make his party the strongest. Even for the SPD things do not take care of themselves, as was borne out in the election.

The Free Democrats are obviously deeply disappointed. Instead of achieving the hoped-for 8 per cent, they dropped to 6.5 per cent. In some major cities, as in Aachen and Oberhausen, they were wiped out altogether.

The FDP and its chairman, Horst Riemer, had made an all-out effort to appear as environment-conscious as possible. But the electorate failed to reward this. Committed environmentalists voted for one of the truly environment-conscious citizens' initiatives rather than the FDP.

For the rest, the political dispute that has just come to an end in North Rhine-Westphalia was typical of classical municipal elections. The campaign was not influenced by national or international issues. All that mattered were local affairs.

The outcome is marked by polarisation. The strongest effects came from community issues, convincing personalities, new faces and a voters' initiative with elan. Where citizens' initiatives had their own candidates they achieved considerable success even though the "others" had not even 1 per cent across the board.

Major cities such as Münster and Bielefeld will now have environmentalists in their councils. Westpahlia's small town of Ahaus, earmarked as an interim dump for nuclear waste, gave 25 per cent of its votes to the "greens".

On the other hand, Kalkar, the site of a fast breeder reactor and the demonstrations that go with it, reacted differently. There, the CDU even managed to win several percentage points.

The citizens' initiatives and the "greens" not only attracted FDP voters but also SPD and CDU followers. They were most effective where they pursued concrete local objectives. Non-local "greens", operating only with slogans, failed to impress.

Some of these groupings said from the very beginning that they would not stand in *Länder* and national elections. As a result it is impossible to draw conclusions for future elections from the North Rhine-Westphalia outcome.

The SPD has lost considerably in some of the major cities. In Düsseldorf, the *Land* capital, the CDU moved into the Rathaus as the strongest party and will provide the mayor. In Cologne, the SPD managed to maintain its majority by a fraction of a percentage point.

The FDP, too, which has always been fairly strong in Cologne, fell behind.

Hagen, Mülheim on the Ruhr and Bochum also dealt a blow to the SPD, though its safe majority was preserved.

All this should make the SPD think.

On the other hand, the CDU also suffered losses in its strongholds, as in the Eifel, the Sauerland and cities like Paderborn.

The 70 per cent turnout can only be termed moderate, especially in the big cities. But taking into account that it was a lovely Sunday and that this might have induced 5 per cent to picnic instead of voting, the turnout boils down to average.

Though North Rhine-Westphalia's municipal elections showed neither a uniform nor a sensational trend, it was still a good election. The citizens gave the parties something to think about.

Wolfram Köhler

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 October 1979)

Free Democrat chief in surprise move

Horst-Ludwig Riemer, leader of the North Rhine-Westphalia Free Democrats, has always been known for spontaneous non-conformism.

This reputation would, at first glance, appear to be supported by his statement favouring a continuation of the *Land* coalition with the Social Democrats after the Assembly elections next year.

The outcome of the local elections in North Rhine-Westphalia hardly justifies Herr Riemer's committing himself at this stage for the new *Land* Assembly.

His statement is also surprising because the Free Democrats have in the past few months rarely skipped an opportunity of chafing their coalition partner.

Herr Riemer not only risks being told that it was obvious now that the FDP was tied to the SPD come what may; he also risks creating the impression that now already wants to pin down his party on the coalitions issue to be decided at the January FDP congress.

But this could very well be what motivated Herr Riemer. His position has for some time been threatened by competitors who are flirting with the possibility of a change in coalition partner. This group has been active lately in Düsseldorf where the FDP cannot evade the question of a new coalition with the CDU, the winner in the local elections.

This could provide an explanation for Horst-Ludwig Riemer's latest surprise move. He wanted to stop a trend that would lead the FDP towards the CDU and away from Herr Riemer.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 October 1979)

Local poll no yardstick for Bundestag

The meshing of municipal, *Land* and federal politics precludes our viewing individual elections by themselves. Even so, we must distinguish because municipal elections in particular are heavily affected by local peculiarities.

As a result, a voter who in a national election might be a firm follower of one party will not base his local decision on the duel of the giants but on such issues as the construction of kindergartens or roads or garbage dumps.

This makes it obvious that North Rhine-Westphalia's local elections cannot be seen as a test case for the 1980 Bundestag election.

Franz-Josef Strauss' local policy motivated participation in campaign rallies in the Ruhr area, which many have interpreted as aimed at national politics, has not had as much effect on the North Rhine-Westphalia elections as some observers had expected.

The relatively low turnout is also seen as proof that it is inadmissible to compare local elections with those for the Bundestag where the turnout can reach 90 per cent.

The elections brought only slight changes. Losses in one city were offset by gains in another. Essentially, the two major parties retained their strong posi-

Nordwest Zeitung

tions while the FDP, which seldom does well with a high turnout, was still unable to achieve any gains.

The poor performance of the environmental "greens" must not gloss over the fact that in many instances where the established parties have been too lax in matters of the environment, they themselves promoted special environmentalist groupings. This lent the 30 September election the character of a genuine Rathaus election.

In the small town of Ahaus, earmarked as an interim nuclear waste dump, an independent voters' community got 25.5 per cent, out-performing even the SPD.

The local elections leave it entirely open how the May *Land* Assembly election in North Rhine-Westphalia and the autumn 1980 Bundestag election will go.

The *Land* SPD will be satisfied about the unproblematic transition from Prime Minister Heinz Kühn to his successor, Johannes Rau.

Opposition leader Heinrich Köppler, on the other hand, will interpret the outcome of the election as a confirmation that prospects for his intended leap into the *Land* premiership have in no way deteriorated.

FDP's Horst-Ludwig Riemer, lately under fire from his own party, has hardly gained more scope for internal party disputes.

The communists, who remain on the city council of Bottrop, suffered losses in most other instances. This shows that the big noise made by the German Communist Party is out of proportion to its public appeal.

The CDU's performance has also been watched with great attention in Munich where the view prevails that Franz-Josef Strauss' appearance in the Ruhr area has not harmed the CDU as has been claimed by some.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 1 October 1979)

Nuclear waste issue boosts environment group

Environmentalists comprise the second biggest *Rathaus* party group in Ahaus, in North Rhine-Westphalia.

This is because the *Land* government plans to establish a nuclear waste dump there, and in the local elections last month, this became an issue.

North Rhine-Westphalia's 30 September local elections brought no conspicuous changes — and where changes have occurred they were due to local problems.

This was most clearly demonstrated in Ahaus where the North Rhine-Westphalian *Land* government plans to establish a nuclear waste dump. As a result, the environmentalists are now the second largest party in the Rathaus.

The established parties — CDU, SPD and FDP — might now ponder why in Ahaus and a number of other towns many voters felt that their problems are in better hands with the "greens" (environmentalists), voter communities and even the communists (who managed to get a foothold in five city halls).

This election was without doubt a municipal election above all. The poor (70 per cent) turnout is noteworthy. The reason for it will cause the party brass some headaches.

Though CDU, SPD and even the FDP expressed their satisfaction with the outcome, the CDU had the most reason to be satisfied. Its position has been somewhat strengthened. By the same token, the SPD's losses were so marginal that they are unlikely to be unduly worried.

Not so the FDP. North Rhine-Westphalia's FDP Chairman Horst-Ludwig Riemer has every reason to be concerned about the losses which induced him over-hastily to announce that, now particularly, his party would form a coalition with the SPD after the spring *Land* Assembly election.

There is yet another question: Was this local election not a test for the 1980 *Land* Assembly and Bundestag elections after all?

Especially for the Bundestag, North Rhine-Westphalia will play a major role in deciding over victory or defeat. CDU circles have certainly uttered a noticeable sigh of relief, while the SPD's and the FDP's secret hopes do not seem to have materialised. Contrary to these hopes, the appearance at rallies of shadow chancellor Franz-Josef Strauss has neither harmed the CDU/CSU nor has it benefited the SPD/FDP.

So was this a test after all?

Hans Stollhans

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 2 October 1979)

■ THE LAW

Lawyers, judges against stronger anti-terrorism legislation




The majority of lawyers and judges in this country are against further Draconian anti-terrorist laws. At the same time they do not want any relaxation of the anti-terrorist laws now in force.

This was evident at the German Judges' Conference to mark the 70th anniversary of the German Association of Judges in Essen, attended by numerous prominent politicians, as the strong contingent of uniformed and plainclothes policemen underlined.

President Carstens was there, as were Bonn Minister of Justice Vogel, Ernst Benda, President of the Federal Constitutional Court and Prosecutor General Kurt Rebmann.

Ever since the terrorist threat emerged some years ago, judges and lawyers have often had police escorts for their own protection. The main subject under discussion at the conference was terrorism.

Inevitably two other very important subjects — the limits of income redistribution and social policy and efforts to reduce judges' work burden by keeping trivial cases out of court — receded into the background.

Are the anti-terrorism laws sufficient for the future, could they be relaxed or abolished in the foreseeable future, do they need to be extended: The 700 participants at the conference discussed the pros and cons in detail and at length. As befits lawyers, they debated the issues dispassionately and objectively. This was underlined when one judge said he was ashamed that a previous speaker had used the stylistically and contentually dubious phrase "taking out of circulation" in connection with the question of preventive custody for terrorists.

Bonn Minister of Justice Vogel told the conference that the present anti-terrorism laws were adequate and the government was not planning any further laws. The following day Prosecutor General Rebmann basically agreed with the government line. His calls for other measures including the possibility of an "indictment in advance" were less far-reaching than what many had expected from the Prosecutor-General. He cannot be content with the fact that the security situation in the Federal Republic of Germany has been somewhat defused as a whole and that some terrorists of the "older generation" are tired and "want out." Rebmann and his staff's main duty is to prevent further terrorist activities. In this context, the views presented by the Prosecutor General in his talk and the following discussion were very moderate — a liberal Prosecutor General calling only for what was absolutely necessary.

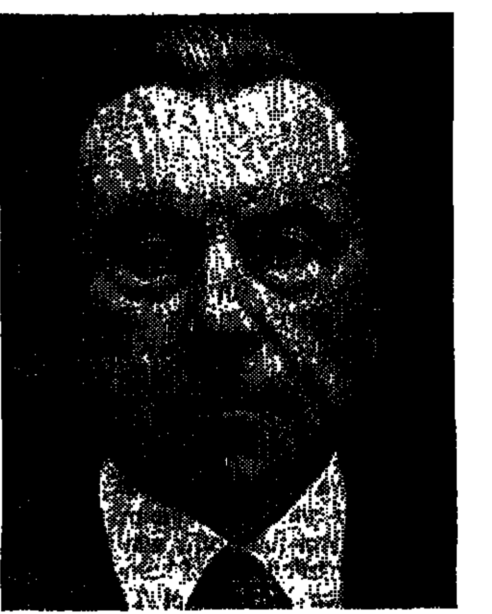
Perhaps Herr Rebmann's words were also addressed to those who are contemplating giving up terrorism. At any rate, Rebmann met with a very positive response to his moderate views from the majority of lawyers and judges at the conference.

The legal principle whereby an accused cannot be tried for the same crime twice makes life very difficult for the State Prosecutor in the fight against terrorists and their helpers. For example the prosecution may be able to prove that a suspect had false papers and a weapon but may not have sufficient evidence to prove that the suspect took part in a bank raid, injured or murdered someone.

This evidence may come to light after a year or so but by then it cannot be used against a suspect accused of membership of a terrorist conspiracy. An "indictment in advance" would be a possible solution here. It would speed up trials and mean that terrorists could not benefit from the state prosecutor's difficulties in accumulating evidence.

The Prosecutor General's remark that there was no need for changes in the law introducing preventive custody for first-time terrorist offenders and a raising of the maximum prison sentence to above the present limit of 20 years caused surprise among some lawyers and judges; Rebmann said that further experience would need to be gathered before preventive custody for first-time offenders was introduced.

Prosecutor Otto Horn of Erlangen and Friedrich Bethke, a judge at the Bavarian Supreme Court, disagreed with Rebmann on this point, as indeed Bavarian lawyers often expressed opinions differing from the majority: "Gathering experience must not mean that something must happen before anything is done. Even the threat of preventive custody could reduce willingness to risk such crimes!" The Bavarians and those from other



Kurt Rebmann
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Länder who shared their opinions failed to win the day in Essen. The large majority supported the Prosecutor General and was against an extension of preventive custody, though it did not go along with Dortmund lawyer Wilhelm Krekeler, who, in his critical analysis from the viewpoint of a defence lawyer, called for the dropping of the anti-terrorism laws. ("Parliament must now introduce the phase of consolidation. The path parliament, the legal authorities and courts are pursuing now is dangerous. Milder means could have been used to protect legal principles.")

A certain amount of malaise about the contact ban law was detectable in Essen but the majority regarded it as a necessary evil that should not be abolished or in any way relaxed. Despite defence lawyer Krekeler's persuasive argument that unimpeded and unsupervised talks between the defendant and his counsel were absolutely necessary for an ideal defence, he and others of his opinion could not move the majority of those present to call for the abolition or relaxation of the contact ban law. The scepticism of judges and lawyers was evident here: terrorists and their accomlices among left-wing lawyers have so long abused our liberal legal system that at the moment there is little inclination to repeal measures designed solely to combat terrorists.

Siegfried Löffler

(Der Tagesspiegel, 28 September 1979)

Supreme Court criticised over Weimar role



In a speech to mark the 100th anniversary of the setting up of the Reichsgericht in Leipzig, West German Supreme Court President Gerd Pfeiffer slammed the shabby role played by this court in the judging and sentencing of political crimes even during the Weimar Republic — before Hitler came to power and brought the courts into line with Nazi doctrine.

Pfeiffer could, as is usually done on such occasions, have concentrated mainly on the undisputably positive aspects of this court.

Pfeiffer certainly did his legal colleagues, the general public and historical truth a great service by describing without mincing words how the Reichsgericht dug its own grave even before the race laws and the emergency decrees of the Third Reich. The Reichsgericht had adopted national socialist legal thinking in its practice before the Nazis came to power — voluntarily, without state compulsion. The reason for this was the authoritarian and nationalistic thinking of judges with obvious right-wing sympathies.

Unfortunately, the President of the Supreme Court failed to point out that even today a number of courts are showing a right-wing bias. By this we do not mean the judges in Karlsruhe but courts who have to pass sentence in the first instance on so-called matters of the protection of the state. The Supreme Court, which as a Court of Appeal has to rely on the account of the facts established in the lower courts, can only counter this latent development to a limited extent. It would perhaps therefore be better if the Karlsruhe judges were again to become the first and final instance for the judgement of such crimes.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 October 1979)

■ AGRICULTURE

Farmers' role changes, but the urban suspicion continues

Thanksgiving (in Germany on 30 September) is not what it used to be — neither in the city nor in the country.

Instead of rejoicing over the cornucopia of plenty, we think of the famine in many parts of the world. It is on such a day that we in Europe refuse to understand why we should groan under an over-supply of foodstuffs while the people of Bangladesh die of hunger.

And when thinking of Thanksgiving we have in mind the progressive destruction of our environment, the pollution of rivers and lakes and of the air we breathe rather than our farmers' huge output.

Many city dwellers think of farmers in terms of a catankerous bunch that pays no taxes and asks for ever larger subsidies.

But this is a distorted picture. There is so much talk of the successes of German industry although the farming community's efforts to increase productivity are not only comparable but in many instances greater. Those who consider farming a backward part of our economy are wrong. Germany's farm output ranks at the very top of the European Community.

Even so, many city people still view the farmer with suspicion. Union demands on behalf of steelworkers or postal employees are taken for granted. Not so the farmers' demands for better incomes.

True, they have come up with some exaggerated demands — but then who does not go overboard when it comes to money?

What we do not understand is that many farmers who earn as much as or more than a highly skilled industrial worker pay no taxes. We also do not understand why the bounty of subsidies equally benefits the wealthy and the poor among farmers.

Owing to their own hard work and to ample government assistance, our farmers are no longer the underprivileged of society — and they know it.

But urban suspicion and scepticism in the face of farmers' protests do not explain the misunderstandings that exist between city and country. The reasons go far deeper. They have to do with a change in social and political conditions.

The farming community has long lost its age-old image of being the provider for the nation. Our livelihood does not depend on agricultural production but on the quality and output of our industry and on exports.

There was a time when the prosperity of the nation depended on the harvest. Today, the prosperity of farmers depends on industrial output.

And a good harvest is not necessarily a blessing today. Preachers who still view a good harvest as proof of God's benevolence should think again.

Today, a good harvest with its surpluses can spell disaster for farmers. They frequently find it more economical to leave their fruit unpicked than to harvest and then dump.

We have all seen protesting farmers dump parts of their harvest along Europe's roads and let tons of milk seep into ditches.

All this shows that it is not shortage but surfeit that makes the farmer protest.

Our harvests are too plentiful, and this is a greater disaster for our industrialised and export-oriented Europe than are hail and drought. No city dweller need fear that a bad harvest in his own country will lead to famine. By the same token, no farmer trusts the handed-down view that a plentiful harvest means money in the bank.

The farmer's importance diminished as our urban society became dominated by industry.

Not only has the industrial age changed the way of work, but also the ideas and attitudes of those doing such work. Many city dwellers no longer know what it feels like to have earth under their feet because they walk on concrete, on wall-to-wall carpets or tiles, and metropolitan children who have never seen a cow are no rarity.

Industry with all its synthetics has outstripped the growth processes of nature. Our fibres and fabrics are man-made, and they are better and more durable than nature's raw materials which need time to mature. To produce synthetics is a matter of revolutions per minute while a cow still needs 900 days before producing the first drop of milk.

Life in industrialised conurbations, with its changed attitude towards the process of work and the material we work with, has led to an estrangement between city and country.

There are still many farmers who feel that the city dweller does not "really" work. But there are also many urbanites who view the farmer as a backward peasant. They see this idea confirmed when they visit the country and see a horse or cow-drawn hay wagon. But they are wrong because they view as typical something that is only the last remnant of a highly mechanised business.

Even the most well meant thanksgiving speeches cannot return the farmer to the position he once held. But we owe them no more and no less than we owe the man at the assembly line.

Bernd Nellessen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 September 1979)

Concern over prospect of poor harvests

Poor harvest prospects world-wide are causing growing concern, Bernd Dreesmann, secretary-general of the German World Hunger Fund, told this year's congress of the Fund.

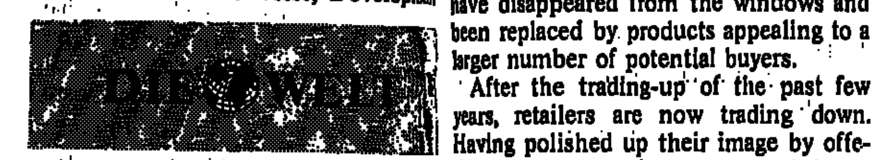
The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) estimates that the wheat harvest in 1979/80 will drop by 6 per cent to 416 m tons and the coarse grain harvest by 5 per cent to 727 m tons.

The rice situation is still unclear but Herr Dreesmann experts a 3 per cent drop to 370 m tons.

Shortfall in the grain harvest will affect primarily the Soviet Union which has hiked grain prices and freight costs through its vast purchases.

The grain imports of the Third World, estimated at 72 m tons for 1979/80, will become considerably more expensive.

To make matters worse, Development



Aid Minister Rainer Offergeld says that the oil price increases have had a disastrous effect on the poorest of the developing countries.

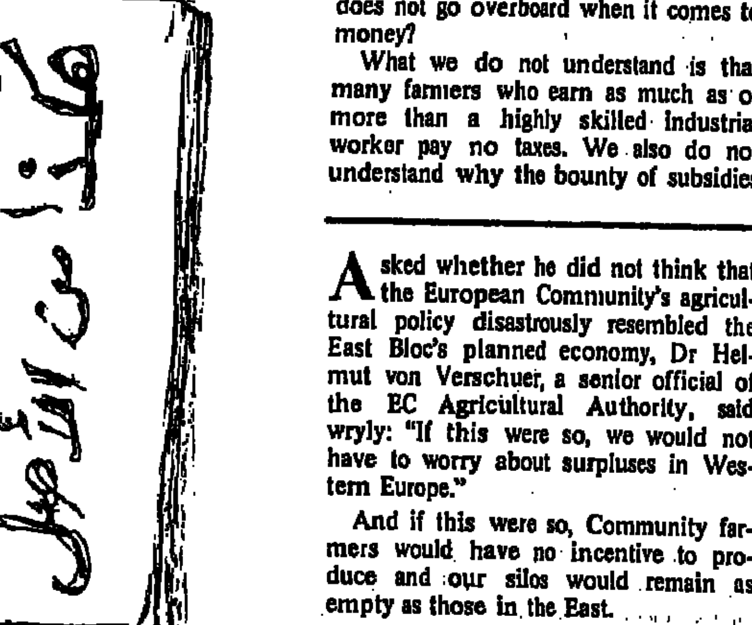
The oil bill is expected to rise from 28 to 40 billion dollars this year.

This development, he said, cannot be offset by increased development aid of the industrialised countries, this having risen in 1978 by just under four per cent to 18.3 billion dollars.

Only a sensible price policy and more development aid by the Opec countries could provide noticeable relief. But their aid, the minister said, fell by one billion dollars to 4.7 billion last year — and not because Iran, which was never very active in this field, has fallen away as a donor.

Hans-J. Mahnke

(Die Welt, 28 September 1979)



The case in favour of surplus food sales

Asked whether he did not think that the European Community's agricultural policy disastrously resembled the East Bloc's planned economy, Dr Helmut von Verschuer, a senior official of the EC Agricultural Authority, said wryly: "If this were so, we would not have to worry about surpluses in Western Europe."

And if this were so, Community farmers would have no incentive to produce and our silos would remain as empty as those in the East.

There is little to be said to this except the fact that even the East Bloc is now making use of such market economy tenets.

EC representatives who visited Budapest recently were told by local functionaries that it was unnecessary for the East Bloc countries to step up their butter production since they can buy all the butter they need cheaply from the EEC.

A couple of weeks ago, the EC parliament in Strasbourg was told by Agriculture Commissioner Gundelach that another 100,000 tons of butter at the cheap world market price will have to be sold to the East Bloc this year. The cost to the Community will be DM600 m.

This butter is bought from Europe's farmers and creameries at the high Community price and then sold to the East at one-third of cost. Needless to say, the difference has to be paid by the taxpayer into the Brussels Agricultural Fund.

"Should such sales to the communists be stopped?" many people want to know.

Commissioner Gundelach says that the East should not be treated differently from any other country because the principle is to sell EC butter at these low prices to anybody who wants to buy it and thus help reduce our surpluses.

These give-away sales, he said, were still the cheapest way of getting rid of surpluses, because storage or conversion into animal feed would be even more expensive.

The Strasbourg debate has made it clear that most Euro-MPs are satisfied with our agricultural market. The farmers of the Community are largely happy with it and it is therefore perfectly understandable why the agriculture ministers of the Nine made it clear three years ago that the principles on which this policy is based needed no change; all that required change was the application.

The Community's agricultural policy will eat up about DM27 bn next year, two-thirds of the EC budget.

The principles are sound. They are based on free competition among all EC farmers through unhampered trade with agricultural produce throughout the Community, Community preference (this ensures that the public consumes primarily Community foodstuffs) and common financial responsibility. All Community taxpayers have to foot the bill if unsellable produce has to be bought from the farmers at guaranteed prices.

But free competition as a principle of the "Green EC" does not fully apply because prices kept artificially high lead to increased production. This is one of the reasons why much of the surplus comes from Germany. The Brussels EC Commission has demanded time and again — so far unsuccessfully — that the system be changed and that prices for surpluses be arrested for several years. But the agriculture ministers have refused to go along.

As opposed to free competition, the two other principles are fully effective: competitors with much better climatic and soil conditions are warded off at EC borders. Farm produce from the United States or New Zealand has special levies imposed on it, making it more expensive.

The surpluses produced within the EC high-price zone are bought at guaranteed minimum prices, stored and then converted into animal feed. Some of it goes to EC consumers or is sold in various parts of the world at subsidised prices. At the taxpayer's expense, no farmer can get stuck with his surpluses.

Pressure for reform has been growing and some changes are due this winter. Informed circles in Brussels say that what has to be eliminated are some of the absurdities of the system. We can no longer provide the same guarantees to buy surpluses."

The maxim is: Surpluses must become cheaper if they are to diminish. There has been talk of social assistance for small farmers who find it hard to survive with falling prices. After all, EC agricultural policy is also social policy and hence, as with its production successes, a useful irritant.

Hermann Bohle

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 29 September 1979)

■ RETAILING

Fears that higher heating costs have cut into shopping money

Retailers are afraid that the increased cost of heating is coming out of the consumers' spending budget.

Chairman of the German co-operative movement, *co op Zentrale Ag*, Berndt Otto, says that the trend towards price-conscious shopping has once more become pronounced.

In its "Observations on the Start of the Season" the trade journal *Textil-Wirtschaft* says that the retail trade has corrected its price structure. Medium price goods have gone up while high price ones have been arrested at their present level or even reduced.

Moreover, the journal writes, it has become obvious that the trade is trying to present a more favourable price structure to the consumer. Very pricey goods have disappeared from the windows and been replaced by products appealing to a larger number of potential buyers.

After the trading-up of the past few years, retailers are now trading down. Having polished up their image by offering more expensive goods and better quality, redecorating the shops and hiring additional and better sales staff, retailers are now pinning their hopes again on bargains.

But what about the customers? Are they once more looking for specials? And is there a change in trend in the offing?

The consumers must doubtless familiarise themselves with new economic exigencies. The heating bills have gone up, as has automotive fuel; and so have prices in general. The portion of income available for consumption has decreased.

Hubertus Tessar, spokesman of the Retailers' Association, says: "Salary increases this year cannot compensate for higher prices."

Thomas Schlier of the Bonn Consumers' Work Group (AGV) says that it still remains to be seen where the loss of buying power due to oil price increases and inflation will have its greatest effect. All he considers certain is that consumers become more price conscious in such situations.

Comments Herr Tessar: "The first half of the year was basically tolerable. But the second most important part (due to the Christmas business) is likely to be marked by restraint on the part of buyers."

But neither the trade nor consumer representatives speak of a change in trend, perhaps because they fear that the lethargic upswing could fizzle.

Walter Deuss, chairman of the *Karstadt AG* department store chain told shareholders recently that "willingness to consume depends on the consumers' economic position and their psychological attitude towards the future."

And the *co op's* Bernd Otto voices his concern over "talking the upswing into the ground."

All that remains to retailers and manufacturers is hope. This is primarily kindled by gradually diminishing automobile sales. It was primarily the car fever of the past few years that troubled sellers of furniture, overcoats, TV sets, carpets and wallpaper.

But drastic additional heating bills presented by landlords and the filling up of homeowners' oil tanks are not seen by retailers as weakening the buying power because, as consumer spokesman Thomas Schlier put it, such bills are not paid from the monthly income but from the savings account.

The consumers' own views of the future nourish the hopes of the trade. Though savings in the first quarter of 1979 rose to 14.6 per cent of income (from 13.0 per cent in the last quarter of 1978) the consumers' uncertainty soon gave way to a certain optimism: in the second quarter savings dropped again to 13.9 per cent, the average level of 1977 and 1978.

In the second quarter of 1975, at the height of apprehension-influenced savings, the quota rose to 17.7 per cent.

The trade's hopes of a sustained upswing in the consumer goods sector is confirmed by a study of the Munich Institute for Economic Research which has just presented its report on the state of the retail trade. The change of trend that became apparent in June and July did not continue in August.

On the contrary, sales rose by a nominal 7 per cent (5 per cent in real terms). Business prospects, says one of the ifo pundits, have thus improved again.

The forecast for the second half of the year says that there will be no sustained growth nor will there be a slump. The stagnating sales in June and the drop in July of almost 2 per cent are seen as attributable to the bad weather rather than to any change in the economic conditions.

And yet, midsummer could easily have adversely affected consumer spending due the increase of VAT from 12 to 13 per cent as of 1 July.

According to the institute, this was the first VAT increase that the trade passed on entirely to the buyers.

Says an institute spokesman: "The trade is now much less in a position to absorb this tax."

AGV spokesman Schlier also finds that, as expected, the whole of the additional VAT was passed on to the consumer. But there were no price increases on top of this due to heavy competition.

Even if the consumers come to terms with an inflation rate unlikely to fall below the 5 per cent mark, some branches of the consumer goods industry must expect diminished demand for the rest of the year. This applies to furniture and other household goods, the automobile trade and the whole of the consumer goods sector. Replacement needs are only satisfied when absolutely necessary.

Textil-Wrtschaft says in its September interim balance sheet: "If it was not only the weather there must have been more to it." By interviewing the trade, *Textil-Wirtschaft* found our more: All types of overcoats and men's and women's suits were poor sellers, and even young fashions were termed "lame" by some retailers.

The journal concludes that the wardrobes are still full and that very trendy clothing has not proved very attractive by and large.

Even the Christmas business holds little promise. The number of consumers who shop for Christam's in the time immediately preceding it is diminishing. As a result the whole Christmas business has been steadily losing its former importance in the past few years. November and December sales are still about 4 per cent higher than those from January to October. But in the mid-sixties Christmas turnover was 6.7 per cent higher, the increase dropping to 5.6 per cent in 1970.

Though the trade is still valiantly optimistic for the second half of 1979, many a hope has been given up for 1980. Retailer fear that increased energy and raw materials prices will not show their effect until then.

Buyers of major German mail order houses must order now for 1980, and they will have to put up with price increases of up to 10 per cent. The trade expects inflation to gather momentum.

But both trade and manufacturers see a silver lining for next year. The diminishing automobile boom will release money for other consumption and the envisaged tax relief could — even if it does not become effective in 1980 — improve the consumers' mood.

Gunhild Freese

(Die Zeit, 28 September 1979)

Consumer body seeks later closing hours

The German Consumer Association wants to introduce late shopping once or twice a week to help working women.

At present shopping hours are governed by the Retailers' Closing Hour Act, which has been the subject of some controversy since it came into force in 1956.

The Consumer Association (DVS) has launched a major signature drive. Women will be asked to express their own wishes concerning shopping hours. Not only is this frenzied race against time while shopping harmful to the shopper's health; but many a woman is unable to do any comparative shopping and frequently she discovers that she has been given rotten fruit or vegetables.

Due to lack of time, she is unable to exchange the goods and the rotten food winds up in the garbage.

The DVS slogan for the drive is "Fight Stress" and it is supported by the Cologne Medical Association.

The whole thing has been a god-send for the Free Democrat Party which has had concrete plans for model experiments lying in its bottom drawer a long time.

A nation-wide pilot project is to help solve the question how shops can keep open until 8.30 or 9 p.m. once or twice a week while keeping their overall weekly opening hours unchanged. In return for the evening opening, the retail trade is to be permitted to close its doors during slack hours. The pilot scheme is to be limited in time and subsequently evaluated.

Only then will it be possible to counter trade union and retailers' arguments that longer opening hours in the evening are unproductive.

FDP spokesman on consumer affairs Helmut Haussmann says that anybody opposing pilot schemes opposes change in general.

The project will of course require that the Act be amended by the inclusion of an experiment clause.

The Consumer Association also wants to change the social position of the sales staff by reducing unpaid overtime and reducing shift work, which is detrimental to the family.

Studies in Berlin, said Herr Haussmann, have shown that women are quite prepared to work in the evening for additional pay. The idea is to attract sales staff wanting part-time jobs.

The rigid fronts in matters of closing hours have now become more flexible.

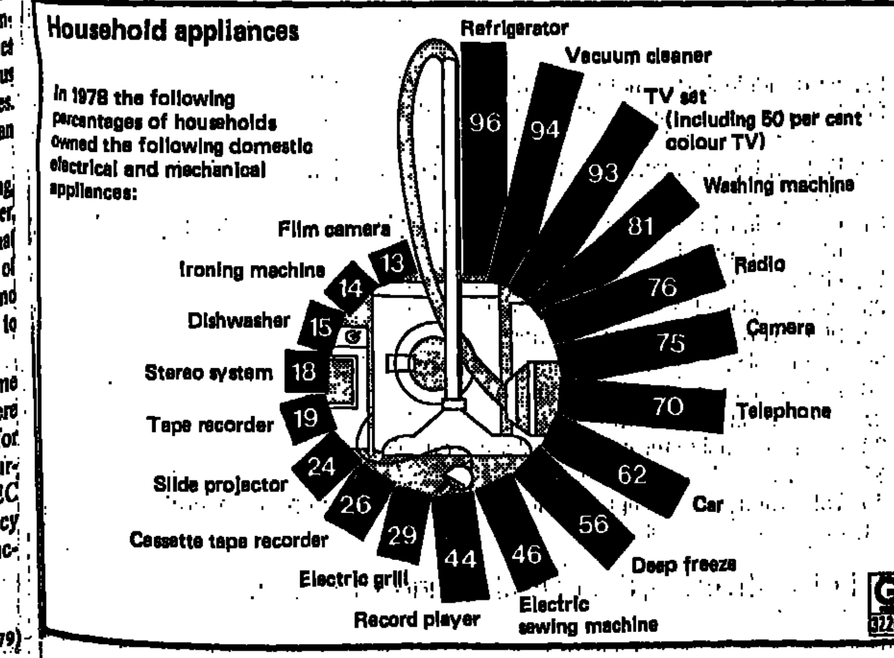
According to Herr Haussmann, the objective now is to find a less rigid solution. After all, Belgians, the French, the Swiss, Italians and the Dutch have long been able to shop in the evenings and their experience with extended shopping hours has been positive.

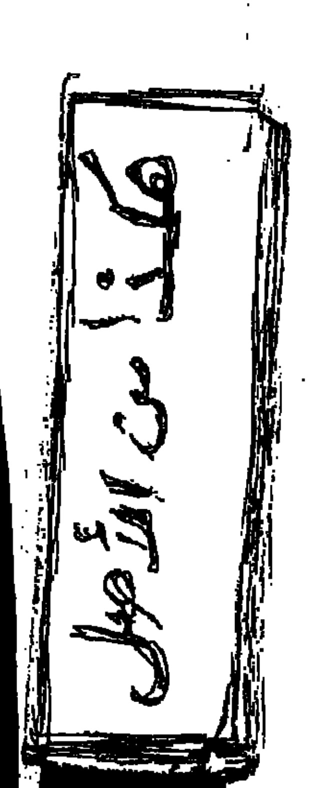
Even human contacts in the widest sense would profit from reforms. City centres that used to be dead after working house would once more be populated. This would also provide an opportunity to meet acquaintances on the street and to get together for a chat. What is the use of spending billions to develop shopping centres that are dead for much of the time.

Moreover, consumers would like to be able to take their time in the evening, shopping for larger and more expensive items, because this would enable them to have the whole weekend free for family activities or jaunts into the country.

Barbara Frandsen

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 September 1979)





■ TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Satellite will eliminate most TV reception problems

In about three years' West Germany will have a radio and TV satellite of its own to relay programmes straight to the consumer.

Ground, relay and booster stations will no longer be needed. From its vantage point in space the satellite will reach every home in the country (and a fair number of neighbouring countries too).

Many problems remain to be solved but the satellite is sure to be launched. Too much research and development has gone into it for the project to be abandoned at this stage.

Viewers will know from TV weather forecasts what satellite pictures look like. Those of us who got up in the early hours of the morning to listen to (or watch) Muhammad Ali in the ring will appreciate the potential of communications satellites.

They can relay sound and vision from one end of the earth to the other, but that is nothing new. What is new is the generation of direct satellites (for direct reception).

The idea is that any viewer or listener whose set is hooked up to a special aerial can tune in direct to the satellite broadcast.

In the past, satellites have been equipped with such low power sources that the receiver virtually had to be a ground booster station because such large and expensive aerials would otherwise have been required.

In future (the near future, too) this will be different. We will be able to tune in to programmes broadcast directly from the transmitter satellite.

The satellite, to which programmes must naturally first be relayed from the studio, will be stationed at a seemingly fixed point 36km (22 1/2 miles) above the equator.

Jumbo solar collectors will supply the power needed to transmit sound and vision to a section of the globe. So basically it is just an extension and improvement of the transmission system and not a new medium.

But the new satellite will definitely be built and launched because it will be able to relay more radio and TV (whether or not that is a blessing is another matter) and provide employment for the aerospace and electronics industries.

Using earthbound frequencies as currently available and allocated, a nationwide fourth TV channel is out of the question. Cable or satellite are the only way to increase the range of options viewers may be offered.

Satellite TV is inexpensive in comparison with the installation costs of cable TV. Richard W. Dill, the satellite expert of ARD, the West German broadcasting authority, reckons it will only take DM500m to set up the entire satellite system.

A further advantage of the satellite is that it will cover the entire country at one fell swoop, including isolated farmhouses and city homes on the wrong side of skyscraper blocks that interfere with signals from the nearest earthbound transmitter.

Even so, satellite TV in its new guise will not be inexpensive. Subscribers will have to invest between DM800 and DM1,500 in a new aerial, meaning extra expenditure totalling billions of deutschemarks.

And the attraction is not just more local programmes but also reception of foreign programmes, since one satellite can ply enormous sections of the globe with radio and TV.

The prospect delighted and entranced visionaries, engineers and political idealists in the 60s. They foresaw special channels for the UN and Unesco, a Euro-channel for the EEC and a choice of programmes from all five continents for viewers.

There was also educational TV, health programmes and technological knowhow that could be supplied to the Third World via satellite radio and TV.

But at sessions of UN and Unesco commissions it turned out that even Western countries were only partly interested in a completely free flow of information and communication.

The Warsaw Pact states wanted to make transmission of any foreign programmes from space dependent on approval by the government of cou[...] with reception potential.

Third World representatives we[...] less alarmed at the prospect of cu[...] alienation and non-stop bombar[...] by propaganda from both Eas[...] West.

Agreement was reached in 197[...] resolution that left considerable [...] for interpretation.

In 1977 a much more pragma[...] proach was made from another [...] with the emphasis on technical [...] ment to take the sting out of the [...] national issues.

At a satellite conference in Gen[...] channels available were allocated [...] nation-state lines. Each country w[...] to be entitled to broadcast to i[...] territory. No-one was to be given [...] vantage over others.

West Germany was allotted fi[...] channels. So, for instance, was Au[...]

The Geneva conference als[...] down satellite location, aerial ang[...] transmitter power, these being th[...] tors that influence the size of ar[...] can be served.

Using a 90-cm (18-inch) dish ae[...] the West German satellite will be [...] programmes that can be received [...] Flensburg to Milan and from Brus[...] Berlin.

Do we want it? This is alm[...] academic question, since it is sure [...] launched regardless. Manufacturers [...] the Bonn Research Ministry have i[...] ed too much cash in the project t[...] off now.

Publications by the Bonn Governm[...] repeatedly conjure visions of the co[...] falling behind in technological dev[...] ments, yet West Germany has an e[...]

Continued on page 9

■ SHIPPING

Women get a chance at the helm

Lieselotte von Rantzau, owner of the Hamburg Deutsche Afrika-Linien and John T. Essberger shipping lines, has been very much a woman's woman in the running of her companies for the past seven years.

Hers are the only West German merchant ships where women trainees learn the trade to qualify as nautical officers and even take their master's ticket.

The first women captains have served as officers on board DAL freighters or Essberger tankers for several years now.

Frau von Rantzau has gone it alone for seven years. Now she has been joined by another Hamburg line, Frigga, which is a subsidiary of the Thyssen group.

On 1 October Captain Ulrike Münster, 24, signed on as Frigga's first woman nautical officer in Rotterdam on board the 82,445-ton ore freighter Brage.

Could this be the beginning of a trend? It certainly looks as though other West German lines are impressed by the Africa Line's experience with women officers.

To judge by a straw poll of leading German shipping lines they are starting to jettison their prejudices against the fair sex on the bridge.

The personnel manager of a marge Hamburg line self-critically put it like this:

"All our arguments against women as officers have been disproved. They are not too weak physically. You can tell whether they will make good shipboard officer material.

"Seamen are prepared to take orders from women. Women don't upset the atmosphere on board and don't give rise to sex problems. Ships are not unsuitable for women by virtue of their outdated sanitation.

"All these arguments no longer hold water. Times have changed. Everyone on board has a cabin and a shower bath of his own."

Dr Nikolaus Rother of the Frigga Line says Frau Münster was signed on because her references and college record were outstanding. She also knew the ropes and had served on board ship in the past.

Having taken this first step Dr Rother now plans to go a stage further and argue the point on committees and working parties of the Shipowners' Association.

He can count on wholehearted support not only from Deutsche Afrika Linien but also from the association's president, Nikolaus Schües of the F. Laeisz Line.

Herr Schües reckons the breakthrough has now been made. He should know. Unnoticed by a wider public, the first two women trainee nautical engineers have been working on board Laeisz ships for the past 15 months.

Lucie Werner from Bad Dürrheim is serving on board the Protector, a bulk cargo freighter, while Esther Behr from Stuttgart is with the Sturmfels, a training ship. "They're both doing fine," he says.

Other lines' views on the prospect of hiring or training women as officers:

Hapag-Lloyd: "We have enough personnel. But we are considering the idea and will come to a decision before long."

Sloman Neptun: "We have no objections in principle. If women were to apply we should be quite happy to consider them on their merits. I (Consul Willhöft of the board of directors) could well imagine it would be charming to have a woman captaining a ship in the Med."

Esso: "We take an extremely sceptical view. Not just because they are women but also because the work is hard, the journeys are long – and so is the length of time a crew has to stay together. Besides, seniority is sure to present problems. Women will find it harder than men to command respect."

Ahrenkiel: "Basically we are not opposed to the idea. We simply haven't discussed it yet. It would depend on the individual."

Hamburg-Süd: "We have no plans to experiment. We have enough male trainees out of work. Ten young men apply for every traineeship we have to offer. Besides, accommodation on board would present problems."

DDG Hansa: "We don't feel in any hurry. We have applicants in plenty. But in the early 80s lines will start hiring women to train as officers in any case because there will not be enough school-leavers available."

Shell: "Ulrike Münster had applied to Deutsche Shell and made a good impression. But, or so the company say, the groundwork had not been properly laid at the time she applied.

"We will shortly be interviewing prospective captains and crew again, and given the right qualifications and personality we would be prepared to give a woman (and ourselves) a chance of seeing how it works."

Jürgen Dobert

(Die Welt, 27 September 1979)

First of new frigates is launched

Bremen, the first of six multi-purpose F 122 frigates commissioned by the Bundesmarine, was launched at the Vulkan yard in Bremen on 27 September.

The six frigates (to be increased to a dozen in the long term) are regarded by the navy as a mainstay of North Sea defences in view of the growing Soviet naval threat.

- They are a combination of ship, electronics, arms and helicopters.
- They are designed to stay at sea in all weathers for long periods at a time.
- They are equipped to fight a potential enemy on the surface, underwater or in the air.

Armaments includes sea-to-sea and sea-to-air missiles: the Harpoon, with a range of 110km (70 miles), and the Sea Sparrow, with a range of 20km (12 miles).

The frigates also boast anti-sub armament and radar-controlled machine guns.

They also have two Sea Lynx helicopters on board to hunt and track down submarines.

They are the largest procurement programme ever undertaken by the Bundesmarine. Bremen's Vulkan shipyard, the main contractors, are sharing the contract with Howaldt of Kiel, Blohm + Voss of Hamburg, AG Weser of Bremen and Nordseewerke of Emden.

The missile frigate Bremen is due to be taken into service in autumn 1981. The other five will follow at intervals until the second quarter of 1984.

The F 122 frigate caused a political rumpus at one stage. The Social Democrats' working party on security affairs said it was "economically inadvisable, militarily useless and politically risky."

Christian Democratic defence spokesman Manfred Wörner replied that the frigate was not a naval prestige project but a bitter military necessity.

Hans-Jürgen Meyn

(Kieler Nachrichten, 26 September 1979)

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mated two-year lead over others in the technology required.

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of Munich and Hamburg have signed a contract with China to supply between 10 and 20 TV satellites. Negotiations with European countries are still under way.

Bonn plans to place its order at the end of this year, "bearing in mind that German industry's lead in international competition to build future telecommunications satellites is an important aspect."

So the German satellite is sure to start broadcasting from about 1983 on, but no-one is yet sure just what it will be transmitting.

Broadcasting authorities are equally worried at the prospect of falling by the wayside technologically if they fail to join the bandwaggon. Neighbouring countries, they reckon, will certainly not be missing the opportunity.

Politicians have yet to frame any definite views on the uses to which the country's five channels should be put. Bonn says the decision lies with state authorities in what, after all, is a Federal Republic.

Political parties and lobbies of one kind and another have not gone further than generalisations on the issue. They are still preoccupied with other media problems such as the future of Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR), cable TV or teletext systems.

Broadcasting authorities themselves suggest transmitting radio on two of the five channels. Each channel could accommodate eight nationwide radio programmes.

Each of the ten or so ARD corporations would be allotted a radio frequency. Deutschlandfunk would be given two or three. The remainder would be available for specialised output, such as music, educational, foreign language and current affairs.

ARD and ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen, or Channel Two) would each have one of the other three channels for nationwide transmission of their current programmes.

After a transitional period of 10 or 15 years they might even stop transmitting their regular programmes via earthbound transmitters altogether, relying entirely on the satellite.

Earthbound farequencies could then be reallocated to regional broadcasters. But this still leaves two important questions unanswered.

Who is to be given the third channel franchise? And what ARD programmes are to be screened between 6 and 8pm when, at present, regional programmes are transmitted?

Jörg Schumacher

(Der Tagesspiegel, 30 September 1979)

THE ARTS

Hamburg exhibition casts light on Max Beckmann's 'exaggerations'

Max Beckmann's works were on show in the last room of the 1978 Paris-Berlin exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Yet even exhausted visitors wanting to take this final hurdle quickly had to stop to admire his haunting and grandiose *Abfahrt*, or the "Self Portrait in Dinner Jacket", showing the artist as both strong man and exile.

Max Beckmann's work in Paris was the monumental finale to German art between the beginning of the century and the Nazi era. Everyone at the exhibition realised that Beckmann had transformed reality into something unreal and visionary, which continues to terrify even today.

The Hamburg Kunstverein is now holding an exhibition on "Max Beckmann as Graphic Artist". Is is part of a series of exhibitions devoted mainly to artists who made their mark in the 1920s.



Max Beckmann's *Faces*, 1916

After George Grosz, Otto Dix, Conrad Felixmüller and Oskar Schlemmer comes the man whose artistic power the French continue to consider teutonic. The power of the graphic works on show in this exhibition — a power verging sometimes on violence — is no less evident than at the Paris exhibition.

The exhibition contains 150 drawings, etchings and lithographs, including the major series of illustrations. They cast *light on the often mythical exaggeration of Beckmann's paintings. But they are* also important links in the chain of confrontation with realism in the visual art of this century which has been a major preoccupation of the Kunstverein in recent years.

Max Beckmann, one of the most important German artists of the first half of this century, inaugurated no artistic school, left no successors.

He stands alone and always has done, despite many affinities for example with Grosz or Dix. He shares with these artists the clarity with which they reacted to the world between the wars. The apparently teutonic, the barbaric, unpitying observation of people in their need, misery, loneliness and desires — such as we find in Beckmann's paintings — is minutely pre-formulated in these drawings and series of illustrations.

Beckmann saw life as world theatre. He did not at first caricature or comment but registered what he saw with pain and sarcasm, with systematic obsessiveness in his drawings.

Beckmann soon saw the "unspeakable absurdity of life." According to his contemporary Kubin, Beckmann's work was *"a reflection of our time which is almost enough to make the heart stop."* In his own words, Beckmann wanted his work to be vulgar, fertile, great, real and grotesque. And this was the kind of work he continued to produce until his death in 1950 in New York.

Born in 1884 in Leipzig, Beckmann had early artistic success in Berlin. He was a loner and remained one. After the World War I he taught at the Städelsche Kunstschule in Frankfurt.

The day after the opening of the Degenerate Art Exhibition in Munich in 1937, Beckmann emigrated, first to Amsterdam, then to the USA. His work includes about 3,000 drawings and he also wrote commentaries and journals that are radical in their honesty.

The Hamburg Kunstverein's excellent catalogue uses these journal entries as a very effective explanation of the drawings.

Beckmann's world theatre is evident in his drawings. The observer of the pictures sees narrow spaces, limit zones, fair booths, circus arenas, dance floors. He sees people and their lives, "grotesque illusions" as Kunstverein director Uwe H. Schneede says in his compelling introduction to the catalogue.

"The man who created these figures, the artist, and we who look at them know that this is not illusion but disillusion."

Beckmann treats his figures like a lion tamer. The figures do not form an ensemble, they are shoved, pushed, led into rooms. They seem unstable, threatened by a distorted environment with many angular forms. In his post-war works, for which Beckmann paid the price of a nervous breakdown, human beings and objects are crowded together as on altar pieces by late medieval German painters. Grünewald was the artist Beckmann admired most.

Beckmann's basic view of life was pessimistic, marked not only by a feeling of helplessness, as expressed in the frightened gestures and wide-open mouths of figures in his works after 1918, but also in the incommunicativeness of the self-portraits.

"Locked like children in a dark room we sit dutifully and wait for the door to open and to be led to execution, to death." A sentence of lithos, drawings and etchings.

The importance of Beckmann as a graphic artist was for many years not fully appreciated.

His graphic work is far from being mere sketches or preparatory material for his painting.

Visitors to this exhibition will learn as much from his direct, emotive response to reality as from the famous paintings.

Ursula Bode

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 September 1979)

Bavarian museums taken to the country

The Bavarian Government is trying to make an art collections available to as many people as possible outside Munich.

So it has introduced a programme of decentralising collections, Part of this policy is the exhibition, "Ottoman-Turkish Handicraft from South German collections", now being held at the Bavarian Army Museum in Ingolstadt.

As a collection of Islamic Art, it makes no claim to rival that memorable show initiated by Prince Rupprecht and held in Munich in 1910.

But as part of the decentralisation programme it is not desighed to.

The transfer of the Munich Army Museum collection to Ingolstadt (in the Neues Schloss since 1972) was at first an exception to the rule that state collections should be housed in Munich.

Since then, the Ingolstadt model has proved its worth and is recommended for imitation.

The exhibition subtitle "From South German collections" indicates that almost all the loan items with which the Army Museum has temporarily increased its Turkish-Islamic collection come from the depots of the Munich museum of Ethnology. The Turkish items brought back as war booty during the wars of the 17th century — which originally belonged to the Wittelbachs — had to be handed over to the National Museum and the Museum of Ethnology in 1926. During World War II, important parts of this collections were lost (especially flags).

Dr Peter Jaeckel, who was succeeded as director of the Army Museum by Dr Ernst Aichner in June, organised this exhibition and the produced the accompanying catalogue as a moment to the bringing together of separate collections ans as his last work in the service of the Ingolstadt Museum.



Max Beckmann's *Marytyrdom ("Hell")*, 1919



A 17th century Turkish powder horn made of tortoise shell. (Photos: Katalog)

A pointed brass helmet from the Mu-

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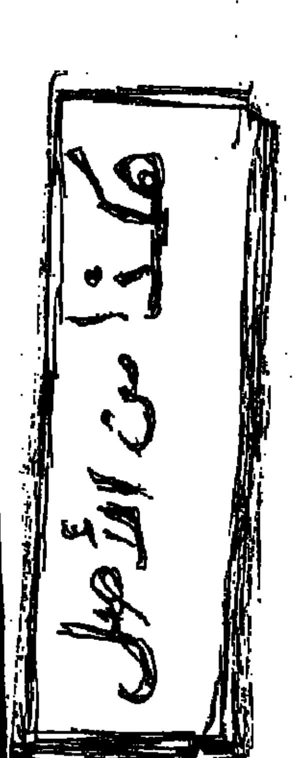
seum of Ethnology (with Venetian lion in the wax seal) stands next to the helmet of a noble from the National Museum — a splendid item not mentioned in the catalogue.

Saddles, stirrups, helmets, halters, shields, mail shirts, whips, spurs and pistols are here, peacefully united with a leather coat of a soldier of the old Turkish footguard and a woollen cap belonging to the Veste Coburg Museum. There is no shortage of cutting and thrusting weapons and daggers with delicately adorned blades.

The audience tent of the Grand Vizier Suleiman was captured in the Battle of Mohacs on 12 August 1687, a restored remnant. The Museum of Ethnology has one round tent. Four tents are missing.

Reinhard Müller-Mehlis

(Münchner Merkur, 27 September 1979)



MUSIC

To make the grade, academy studies alone are not enough

Music competitions are like top-class sporting events: those who can play as loud and fast as possible with the greatest virtuosity win the prizes.

Now, however, judges, especially in German competitions, also attach high importance to musical criteria. But this approach is still the exception. Sorcerers, as the virtuosi used to be known, are still in demand. Why do highly expert Russian and American soloists dominate our concert halls and opera stages? One thing is clear, "soul", once so highly rated in this country, is no longer able to cover up false or skipped notes.

Vitali Margulis has for the past few years been Professor of Piano at the Freiburg Musical Academy. He belongs to the Russian school. Asked what this school is, he answers decisively: "Constant, special training from early on."

Freiburg music students say: Pity Margulis' pupils, they even have to practise during meals, until they collapse. Anyone wanting to join Margulis' class is told right from the start that he will have to practise for at least eight hours a day — and by at least he means at least. Sundays are not rest days for his pupils. The remark that Walter Gieseking never practised (if it is true) does not help.

A frequent complaint at academies is that students are too crammed with information, that they have to spend too much time on subsidiary subjects, which keeps them away from practice on their instrument. The all-round musician, who does not spend all his time practising and yet still plays perfectly, does not seem to exist. Music academy graduates virtually never start giving public concerts as soon as they have passed their concert examination. This is when the real work begins. Nowaday, no one who has not spent some time in one of the major American musical training camps has a chance of making the grade. Perhaps all we need in this country are the trainers?

These American training camps are set in the country, usually far away from big cities. Here, in Marboro or Tanglewood, would-be soloists from all over the world gather to be taught by leading international performing musicians. Itzhak Perlman, for example, gives a master class to one student in a giant tent, before an audience of hundreds.

He is relaxed, humorous, witty — but relentless. Students learn first-hand from masters how to practise best at home. Our training camps never have the same relaxed, happy atmosphere as the American ones. On the other hand, we do not select those who can attend as rigorously as the Americans do.

German music students are slowly beginning to realise that their academy studies, though an important basis for their professional career are not enough in themselves, The student must attend courses or summer academies — especially because there he is trained more intensively and at a higher level than can usually be attained in classes at the academy.

This is especially true when students wish to concentrate on special areas of interpretation, for example on the work of Johann Sebastian Bach. Inspired by the American example, conductor Helmut Rilling has now started a "J.S. Bach Summer Academy" which will be held annually and, in concentrated form, will give students from all over the world an opportunity to learn and practise current interpretations of Bach's music.

The novelty of Rilling's concept is in the combination of three areas of music that are generally kept separate: musical science, usually to be found only in university ghettoes, music practice, which rarely attempts to learn from the findings of musical scientists, and music education, which often an area in which there is often insufficient contact with musical science and musical practice.

In future Rilling will ask for one new cantata a year to be composed, so that young musicians can also learn from interpreting modern music. This is a good idea, as young musicians are usually reluctant to play modern music. They do not like it. Perhaps they have seen that modern music specialists are not convincing interpreters of classical and romantic music. Furthermore young people today find it extremely difficult to identify with new works. One ensemble at an ensemble course in Hitzacker recently refused to study a work by Paul Hindemith.

It is signficant that the once famous Kranichsteiner Ferienkurse (now renamed *Internationale Kurse für Neue Musik*) in Darmstadt is now held only biennially, instead of annually. Composition is the main priority here though interpretation courses given by modern music experts are offered for all instruments. However, even here, the specialists of tomorrow have an opportunity — better than at the academies — to interpret modern music. The course is short, only three weeks, but at the academies there simply is no time to study this kind of music intensively, as every student has to concentrate on gaining his laurels in classical and romantic music. Very few music academy graduates have a major 20th century work in their repertoire when they leave.

There are many other areas which the musical academies can only deal with sketchily, if at all. For example old music as originally written, using the old instruments. More and more young musicians tend to play Bach and the music of his time, not on 19th century instruments, but on the instruments of Bach's time and in the manner prescribed by Bach.

Otto Ulf, a former orchestral musician and retired music teacher, hit on the idea of using the magnificent Ambras Castle near Innsbruck for the playing of this old music. Since then The Festival of Old Music has developed, with a summer academy which, for financial reasons, only lasts a week.

It is worth visiting the festival if only to hear the imaginative continuo playing of Herbert Tachezi, a member of the Concentus Musicus. His playing underlines the poverty of our established concert and teaching practice in this respect. Compositorial ability is required to overcome balance and complement the bass voices for which contemporary composers never wrote notes.

Innsbruck has another novelty to offer: baroque dancing to the old rules, demonstrated by American dance expert Professor Shirley Wynne. She brought all the course students, including the non-dancers, together and made them imitate baroque dance movements. Striking resemblances were noted between body movements and musical breathing and representation.

The dynamically rich picture given by this old music played in the original and not in the romantic style was highly impressive. These were not music-historical rites but music full of impulses performed by musicians of today.

Here we acquire new ears for old music. Anyone who has taken part in a course such as this will find it difficult to return to conventional concert life.

Finally, there is chamber music, sadly neglected at the musical academics because there simply is not enough time for it. There is now a summer academy for chamber music in Hitzacker, in the Jagdschloss Göhrde Educational Centre. The aim of the course is to counter the one-sidedness of specialists and to give these interested an opportunity to familiarise themselves more thoroughly with this music than they could at the academies, where chamber music is usually only an optional course. Here in the middle of the giant forest between Dannenberg and Lüneburg, in a castle where Kaiser Wilhelm II hunted in 1913, 50 or so young musicians and teachers come together to practise chamber music. For them, playing together is more important than solo virtuosity. Led by Friedrich v. Hausegger, a violinist who once had his own quartet, they study trios, quartets right up to octets which they hardly ever come across at the academies.

Combinations of wind and strings are rare at the academies because of time clashes and because students have enough to do to master their own instruments. Yet chamber music is vitally important for many musicians.

Who become soloists? The few candidates who make the grade later take up chamber music without having the necessary training for it.

At Hitzacker, the teachers change, and not only every year. Amadeus Primarius Brainin was here, the Lasalle quartet is coming in 1981, clarinettist Jost Michels teaches here, as do v. Slogteren of the Former Danzi quartet, pianist Carl Seemann and maestro Antonio Janigro.

The aim at the Hitzacker course, which lasts three weeks, is for the ensembles to be given expert tuition by string teachers, wind specialists and pianists. The atmosphere is decidedly informal — as one would expect with chamber music. Here, too, they start with fundamentals: reading the notes. This is more difficult than one might think — and not because of the edition problems. As soon as they start discussing questions of harmony and of nuance, these musicians realise how salutary course work can be. The soloist becomes an ideal democrat. He is someone but he nonetheless submits to the same discipline as the others.

It is astonishing and pleasing that the young musicians from many countries are remarkably hard-working and willing to learn. Thirst for knowledge is back in vogue again. Talk about pressure on students leads to mocking smiles here. Summer academies are at last, even in this country, becoming important cultural events, the coronation of a musical academy career, often having to make up for serious deficiencies at the academies.

One important side-effect is that teachers themselves learn a great deal from contact with colleagues and students.

In the words of Helmut Rilling: "Intepreting music is a living thing, it cannot be pinned down. I hope our interpretations next year will be different from today's."

Wolf-Eberhard von Lewinski

(Deutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1979)



Music by computer

St Lawrence Church in Nuremberg has the first church organ equipment to include micro-processors. Left in picture is the keyboard of the organ, the second largest church organ in West Germany, with the keys for inserting the computerised programme. The organist is St Lawrence music director Hermann Harrassowitz. This electronic system developed by Siemens allows 40 combinations of registers, and therefore of tones, compared with four in standard organs. (Photo: Siemens)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Russians flock to show and learn what the papers didn't say

An exhibition in the Soviet Union featuring life in West Germany has drawn throngs of Russians.

The exhibition, entitled "A Glimpse of the Federal Republic of Germany," was held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijam.

The Russians, Azerbaijamis and Armenians of Baku, on the Caspian Sea, for the first time had an opportunity to learn something about the distant country in the West which the local media has ignored.

The information gap was filled by posters, photographs, books, a film and recorded pop music.

For the average Soviet newspaper reader and TV viewer, West Germany's reality is marked not so much by VWs and kindergartens but by unemployment, social misery and neo-Nazism.

The opportunity to see the other side of the story brought throngs to the Baku Art Gallery for the exhibition.

Plastic bags with the German eagle were distributed free to carry brochures.

Such scenes are part and parcel of all foreign exhibitions in Moscow or Leningrad. The fact that the Federal Republic of Germany has now been able to introduce itself off the beaten track as well is primarily due to the work of the German-Soviet Friendship Society.

Said an Azerbaijam representative, his eyes riveted on a photograph of President Karl Carstens: "We want to impart life to the Moscow Treaty."

The exhibition not only centred around the history of the Federal Republic of Germany but above all around the relations between the two countries since Adenauer days and the 1970 Treaty.

A series of glossy photographs illustrated party leader Leonid Brezhnev's visits to Bonn in 1973 and 1978, showing that every important German politician had a chance at least once to share a sofa with the Soviet leader, among them Helmut Schmidt, Willy Brandt, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Helmut Kohl and Franz-Josef Strauss.

The contents and the composition of the show were carefully prepared, and the jocular Soviet admonishment of "no Bibles and no Solzhenitsyn" was quite unnecessary.



There were two things the organisers wanted to avoid at any cost: to provoke, and to provide propaganda instead of information.

Photographs by Barbara Klemm showed scenes of people at work and portraits of Heinrich Böll, Günter Grass, Udo Lindenberg and Boney M on the stage.

The books on show included German translations of the works of the younger generation of Soviet authors plus German classics and contemporaries, among them (perhaps with a thought of Caspian Sea sturgeon) Johannes Mario Simmel's "It Needn't Always be Caviar".

Visitors to the show busy themselves copying dressmaking patterns. A few ask hesitant questions.

Dr Abdullayev, dean of the German department at the Baku Institute of Languages, steps forward and introduces himself. His German is almost unaccented, as is that of his escort. They studied in Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden. Dr Abdullayev helps himself to some reading matter, saying: "I read a lot in German, and when I'm at home I talk to myself in your language."

In addition to the exhibition there is also a competition programme. Months before the show opened Baku schools distributed quiz questionnaires, promising prizes for the winners. The contest was so popular that masses of people frantically worked at finding the answers to such questions as; "What is the chancellor's name?"; or "Where was Karl Marx born? In Karl Marx City, in Trier or in Hamburg?"

At the conservatory and in private houses, amateur artists rehearse German music because there is also a prize for the best rendition of "Heideröslein", a German folk song.

Another programme goes under the slogan: "Children Paint for Children".

The exhibition was held last year in Kiev and Tiflis, eventually coming to Yerevan and Baku. Next year in will be shown in Dushanbe and Alma Ata in Central Asia. It is hoped also to be able to visit the three Baltic Soviet republics.

Each show stays open for seven days and attracts between 700 and 2,000 visitors a day. The cost of about DM150,000 is provided by the Bonn Press and Information Office and the Foreign Office. Donations add to the kitty.

So far, nothing has been said of a Soviet exhibition in the Federal Republic of Germany, but there are plans to hold "Days of Azerbaijam Culture" with folk songs, dancing and concerts in Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Stuttgart and Munich.

The Azerbaijam Days will be attended by the chairman of the Friendship Society in Baku, Habi Chasri. Among the professions listed on his calling card is also "poet". In addition, he is an expert on toasts promoting understanding among peoples.

Leo Wieland

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 September 1979)

Society keeps student exchanges moving

Founded in 1949, the Carl Duisberg Society (CDG) recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. The Society is named after the chemist and former general manager of the Bayer works.

Initially, the CDG continued the pre-war tradition of student exchanges for on-the-job training between the United States and Germany. The Society tried to expand this to include France and Britain, but did not succeed until 1954.

The student exchange programme is still going strong. German business, which funds CDG, increasingly depends on executive staff with foreign experience and fluency in foreign languages.

Today, CDG deals much more in exchange programmes with Africa, Asia and Latin America. This enables students there to acquire in Germany the know-how they will later need at home.

The first "Foreigners' Circle" for the



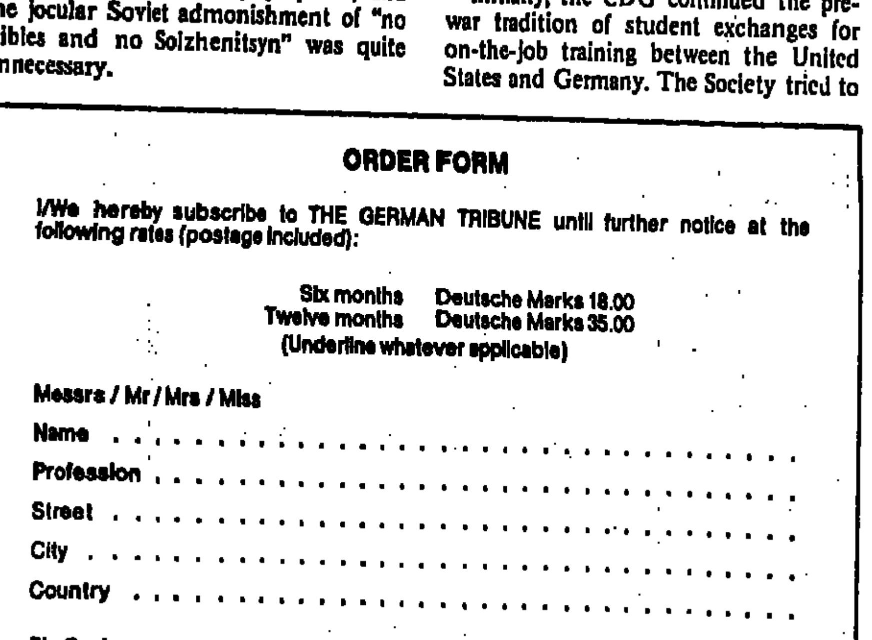
training of foreign students was founded in 1954. By now there are five Carl Duisberg Centres for language and other specialised courses. The "reception" is at the Saarbrücken centre and virtually all scholarship holders from developing countries pass through it.

There they receive their first information about Germany, take a simple test in German and undergo a physical checkup.

The Carl Duisberg Promotion Circle was founded in 1972 to promote contacts between the CDG and German business.

Hans-Jürgen Götz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 21 September 1979)



Author tries to dispel old prejudices

A Polish political scientist ha[s at]tempted to dispel old preju[dices] about Poland in an essay publish[ed to]gether with those by other authors [in a] 600-page book available in German.

In it, the author, Franciszek Ry[szka] deals with the image of Poland and Poles in Germany.

Much of the image people hav[e of] Poland is put to a book about trave[ls in] Poland written 200 years ago descri[bing] the mud and waste found side-by[-side] with poverty and luxury.

Ryszka says that Warsaw has in [...] suffocating in mud after the third [divi]sion of the country under Prussian [rule] and that Paris looked pretty much [the] same at that time.

Deliberately taken out of context [this] detail is significant for the author's [un]dertaking and the intention behind [it]. The objective is to remove old pre[ju]dices and wrong ideas that have cre[at]ed the belief of a cultural gradient fr[om] West to East. It was necessary, the [edi]tors say, to exaggerate in order to eli[mi]nate.

Lopsided views in both directions

These lopsided views of the tw[o] nations about each other can also be found among the Poles where they go so far as to claim — and this can cer[tainly] not apply to the GDR — tha[t] while efficient and remarkable for the[ir] material achievements, the Germans re[]main the "creators of Mercedes an[d] Volkswagens."

The book, entitled "Federal Repu[blic] of Germany — People's Republic of Po[]land, Balance Sheet and Relations, Pro[b]lems and Perspectives of Normalisatio[n]" has just been published in German b[y] *Metzner-Verlag*, Frankfurt.

In both Germany and Poland it wil[l] have a circulation of 3,000 copies. Th[e] price in Germany is DM49.80 and in Poland zloty 150 (equivalent of DM12).

The book is primarily meant for spe[]cialists and is "unprecedented" as one [of] the Polish editors puts it.

And, indeed, there has been no pre[]cedent for such a common effort th[at] tears down barriers between East and West.

Says Jerzy Sulek, omo of the tw[o] Polish editors: "We're not writing abo[ut] ancient history but about the normalisa[]tion process of the 70s."

He spoke on behalf of the 16 Pol[ish] and eight German historians, jurists and sociologists who, as far back as 197[] decided to write such a book dealing with the problems of two peoples. Some passages were written three or fou[r] times.

As the Bonn political scientist Ca[rl-] Christoph Schweitzer points out, the lis[t] of similarities in the assessment of hist[]oric processes grew longer and longer and that of different viewpoints shorter and shorter. As a result, a number of ar[]ticles had to be rewritten several times.

Just to set the record straight, the dif[]ferences that remain are not glossed over. This is particularly conspicuous in connection with the border issue or the question who is still considered a Ger[]man in Poland.

And because the Posen jurist Lech

Continued on page 14

MEDICINE

Cash support for artificial hearts urged, 'to save thousands of lives'

Artificial hearts could save the lives of 100,000 people every year, including 2,000 in West Germany, delegates to a West Berlin conference were told.

Professor Emil Sebastian Bücherl, of the Free University of Berlin, said in his opening speech that research into the artificial heart at the moment depended on strong financial support to solve the remaining problems and to work out the techniques for everyday clinical practice.

Priority must be given to this research because the number of people with heart disease was, if anything, increasing. For many sufferers, the only hope in the long run was an artificial heart.

One hundred and fifty delegates from all over the world attended the conference, at the Berlin Congress Centre.

Dr Lowell T. Harmison, of Rockville, USA, said that the long waiting lists of patients prepared to undergo heart transplants underlined the need to alleviate the problem by developing an artificial heart.

Professor Bücherl said that from an a economic as well as from a human point of view the artificial heart was so important that no one would complain about the money invested in research as soon as the first artificial heart had been implanted and was working successfully.

The lively discussion on the first day underlined that the problem is primarily one of detail. The ideal material for the artificial heart still has not been found.

Dr Francis Pillick of the US Federal Institute in Bethesda summarised the

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

state of international research when saying that the various research groups had so far managed to produce materials which met some but not all of the requirements, which are: durability, flexibility, a compatibility with blood and tissue, purity and smoothness of surface.

In the early stages of research, the main practical obstacles were the destruction of blood and the formation of blood clots. This problem has now largely been overcome in animal experiments. Animals now live for 100 to 200 days after having artificial hearts implanted.

The main problem now is the calcification of artificial hearts.

These desposits are so sharp and pointed that they make the plastic material porous and liable to crumble. This is unacceptable in view of the fact that the material must remain intact in the human body for years. However, some speakers at the conference said that this might be an imaginary problem as the animals in the experiment were calves which were still growing and would thus have high calcium levels in the blood.

If it could be proven that calcification was not such a problem in the case of fully grown cattle, then calcification would no longer be such a serious problem as artificial hearts would not be used for children.

Dr Robert K. Jarvik of Salt Lake City, USA, summarised the various designs and ways of functioning of artificial hearts. There is as much variety here as in the materials used — including metal pumps with plastic parts covered with a biological protein layer to ensure better compatibility with the body.

As for the form of artificial hearts, long, oval structures for the two halves of the heart are now preferred to earlier spherical shapes.

It is not yet possible to say whether the artificial heart of the future will pump blood or whether the blood will be kept flowing constantly by means of a centrifugal pump. No one can yet say whether the human organism can tolerate constant pressure in the veins.

Dr Fukumasu of Rostock University and Professor Bücherl's Berlin development team have made an important step towards making the artificial heart compatible with the human organism.

Dr Fukumasu found out that blood vessels are displaced and pressed by the pressure of the breast-bone on the artificial heart. The resultant risk of obstruction and coagulation is evident. On the basis of Dr Fukumasu's research, Professor Bücherl's Charlottenburg team changed the shape of the artificial heart, adapting it to the inside of the breast bone.

Dieter Dietrich

(Der Tagesspiegel, 26 September 1979)

Insurance institute spells out death statistics

Average life expectancy of people in this country could be increased by 12 years if the years lost because of sickness and accident could be eliminated, according to a report by the Scientific Institute of the Local Health Insurance Schemes (WIdO).

The report is the first systematic analysis of the number of years lost as a result of premature death. The causes of death are also listed and compared.

The figures underline the importance of health care and regular check-ups.

The WIdO calculates that 9.4 m years of life are lost prematurely every year in this country.

Heart attacks top the list. The average life expectancy of a male baby is reduced by 24.2 months by the risk of heart attack; 1.3 m years of life are lost in this country every year due to heart attacks. Road accidents lead to an annual loss of 510,000 years. On average, road accident victims would have had another 33.6 years to live.

Suicides reduce life by an average of 25.5 years and cause an annual loss of 350,000 years of life. Cancer reduces average life expectancy of the population as a whole by 2.5 years, diabetes by 3.2 months. For victims of these diseases, the loss of years is 10 and 12 respectively — a total of about 1.5 million years of life.

Many of these premature deaths could be avoided if those involved led more healthy lives. Cigarette smokers, for example, risk an average loss of 12.3 years of life. Excessive alcohol consumption, one of the major causes of cirrhosis of the liver, leads to an average loss of 16 years.

If we could cut the number of fatal road accidents by half, the average life expectancy of all male inhabitants of this country would increase by 4.9 months and 255,000 fewer years of life would be lost.

Theoretically, life expectancy could be increased by 12 years. At the moment the average life expectancy of men is 68 years and that of women is 74.5 years.

The study also shows that the loss of life caused by infectious and parasitic diseases such as tuberculosis and pneumonia has dropped sharply since 1952.

Infant mortality has dropped sharply.

In the case of heart and circulatory diseases, there has been an absolute increase in the number of deaths compared with the 1950s.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 27 September 1979)

Innovation in spine curve surgery

A German specialist has developed a new method of operating on severe curvature of the spine. Klaus Zielke, head of the German Scoliosis Centre in Bad Wildungen, gave a demonstration of this new technique at a recent seminar for orthopaedists attended by specialists from the USA, Japan, Sytia and Austria.

The operation lasts between 40 minutes and six hours, depending on the seriousness of the case. The surgeon corrects the position of the spinal colum using a special device.

One of the specialists who attended the seminar said afterwards: "After the operation, patients can leave the hospital straight-backed."

With this new technique, the spinal column is approached via the thorax. This is significantly less dangerous than the old method, by which surgeons operated on the spinal column "from the rear."

It is estimated that five thousand people in this country suffer from severe curvature of the spinal column. *ddp*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 September 1979)

New treatment for blood vessel diseases

New methods of treatment have been found for "smokers leg" and other diseases involving blocked blood vessels.

Scientists in several countries have developed artificial arteries similar to natural ones, but with a high degree of elasticity.

This was one of the breakthroughs discussed at a three-day meeting in Düsseldorf of the Angiological Societies of West Germany, Austria and Switzerland attended by 600 experts from all over the world.

The specialists stressed that veins — the patients' and others' umbilical cord veins and carotid arteries of cows and calves are used as well as artificial arteries.

Blood flow could also be sped up using drugs. Another method which produced good results was the extension of blood vessels by means of inflatable catheters. *dpa*

(Handelsblatt, 28 September 1979)

Crop virus hits at sales

Until recently it was assumed that diseases of corn caused by viruses were economically unimportant.

It has now been shown however that these viruses can lead to a sharp drop in profits from corn sales. The yellow stunting virus and the yellow mosaic (affecting barley) are the most serious.

The yellow mosaic virus has proved especially dangerous. It can survive in the ground for long periods and can obviously be carried by agricultural machines. The virus has been found in Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia and North Hesse. It has made up to 50 per cent of a crop unsaleable.

Winfried Huth, of the Institute of Virus Diseases of Plants, forecasts that this disease will become more widespread in the next few years.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 September 1979)

LEISURE

Hikers stride out for all corners — with pitfalls for the unwary

A nation has taken to the highways and byways. It jogs and hikes. Why? Is it the vaunted flight from the tedium of everyday life or is it a new health consciousness or does it perhaps have something to do with the energy crisis? Is it a herd drive or is it a gimmick?

One thing it is for sure: a fad and a money spinner. The desire for locomotion on foot is increasingly turning into big business.

A Munich sporting goods store advertises Adidas jogging shoes for DM39.90 to mark the first Munich City Jog. But perhaps the jogging shoe model "SL 80" for DM72 is even better — or why not the "Roadrunner" for DM99.50? After all, the feet, too, deserve their status symbol. And then, of course, you should also have the jogger's pedometer, adjustable stride and all, for DM45.

Thus equipped to perfection, the German of today is ready to take off. In fact, there should soon be barely anybody in this country who has not been awarded a hiking medal or a jogging citation. All Alpine *Länder* award such medals for specific mountain routes in gold, silver or bronze. There are also the Golden Rucksack, the Silver Edelweiss, the Golden Mountain Goat and the Enzian in bronze.

The range of hiking and jogging deals is enormous. Among the more popular ones is "Hiking without Luggage": Nimble porters transport the wanderer's expensive suitcase from one hotel to the other. Even the mountains around Kitzbühel and Lech am Arlberg of ski fame have now become hikers' paradises and ski instructors have become hikers' guides. But the clientele is different; there are fewer delectable ski bunnies and more ample mamas from the flatlands.

There is hardly a village in Austria that does not have its hiking weeks or hiking days. A type of hiker's lift pass, modelled on the ski lift pass, has meanwhile also been introduced. The hiker takes the lift up the mountain and strolls back to the valley.

The Austrians now act as if they had invented legs. They speak of "Wanderbar Austria". The advertising slogan was promoted by the minister in charge of tourism two years go when the tourist business was in the doldrums.

Having given the signal, his PR people went to work organising the hiking wave on a "money no object" basis. So far, they have spent DM7m.

But since people have always wandered, the whole thing needed some attractive garnishing. So now there are hikes complete with picnic, hikes with schnapps-tasting sessions, package deal hikes with stalking mating stags, hikes to inspect power stations and hikes with a rucksack full of provisions provided, these consisting primarily of smoked bacon and fruit schnapps.

In their promoters' eagerness, the organisers have come up with a "trans-border hiker's pass" between Vorarlberg and the Allgäu.

Before hiking up a mountain, the participants undergo a medical test in Seefeld, Tyrol.

The mountain village Kappel, also in the Tyrol, promises the hiker a free glass of milk at a mountain farm "guaranteed fresh from the udder."

Another Tyrolean village, Sankt Johann, has just awarded the "first golden hiking shoe" (original size) to a man from Solingen. While his wife and son took the train, he had hiked to the Tyrol.

This prompted the Sankt Johann tourism organisers to award the shoe to everybody who has hiked to them over a distance of more than 400 kilometers.

Our parents and grandparents packed their rucksacks and simply set off. But now hiking is an industrial product. A marketing company has come up with the following offer: "Hiking as a discipline of sport for all who want their performance measurable and demonstrable. They get a certificate with an impressive seal plus a hiker's badge.

Performance drive and stress have thus taken hold of the formerly leisurely hike.

Not to be outdone by "Wanderbar Austria", the neighbouring countries have now also jumped on the bandwagon.

Berchtesgaden awards a golden rucksack to mountain hikers and fashionable Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy has special deals for hotel guests who can take mountain hikes and spend a couple of days in an Alpine hut with full board and at no extra cost.

Switzerland has reacted with equanimity, saying that it was the only country where hiking has been provided for in the Constitution and is hence protected. Since a referendum on 18 February, road construction and agricultural products may no longer interfere with hiking paths.

Dozens of Swiss holiday resorts have for years had special hiking arrangements. Their slogan is "Switzerland makes it truly easy for its guests who want to get going. The only thing they have to do for themselves is move their feet."

Of all the in forms of hiking, mountain hiking is the most problematic.

Says the Tyrolean tourist office manager Luis Pichler about the participants in the local group hiking project: "It's frightful the way some people turn out. They really think that they could wander around at an altitude of 2,000 metres as they would in a park."

Anyone who goes on a mountain hike in a track suit with normal street shoes should inform the rescue service beforehand and reserve a hospital bed.

It is very difficult to explain to people from the flatlands, mountains guides say, that it is not only mountaineering that has to be learned. The same applies to mountain hiking because a thunderstorm could transform the most beautiful mountain into hell.

Experts predicted an all-time record in fatal mountain accidents for this season, and Italian mountain rescuers have already blamed the Germans for the shocking balance sheet of accidents.

But it is not only the much maligned German street-shoe-tourists who are to blame. German mountaineers and mountain hikers are splendidly equipped. There is no shortage of money, but you cannot buy experience in a sports goods store.

Says one rescuer: "The Germans give up too late, they pay no attention to cloud formations and overestimate their physical abilities."

Lately, there has also been an increasing number of deaths due to heart attacks — exactly what hiking is supposed to prevent.

The Germans have been seized by a new craze, and clever businessmen are cashing in. A Stuttgart publisher has so far published 30 hiking guides and tour operators offer the "Peer Gynt Route" in Norway and the "King's Route" in Sweden at package deal rates. Others have among their listings special mountain hiking weeks in Corsica, Madeira and Cyprus.

These excursions, which are not exactly cheap, have been devised by mountain experts of the mountaineering school in Innsbruck, and business is flourishing.

A gymnastics club in Munich is organising the first "People's Marathon and Mass Hike", to take place in Nepal next December. The winner's award is to be presented by a member of the royal family because Nepalese are also expected to take part in the event.

A spokesman of the club: "This makes for better communication between locals and tourists."

There can be little doubt that sponsors will latch on to this opportunity to test sales prospects for jogging shoes in Nepal.

Kilian Gassner

(Die Zeit, 28 September 1979)

Skates in traffic ... sliding round the finer points of the law.

(Photo: Jürgen Lische)

Continued from page 12

Janicki's ideas do not tally with those of Schweitzer, he inserted a footnote on the appropriate Janicki page, saying: "From the Federal Republic of Germany's vantage point this formulation could be misunderstood, to say the least."

When writing on the flight of Germans driven from Poland, one section of the book uses euphemisms, talking of "a population shift." But notwithstanding the euphemisms, the text speaks of the flight of some four million Germans, involving great loss of life, and of the deportation of German and Polish families.

Deputy Bundestag Speaker Richard von Weizsäcker (CDU), former FDP Member of Parliament William Borm and MPs Gerhard Jahn (SPD) and Werner Marx (CDU) were present in Bonn when Professor Schweitzer (himself an MP from 1972 to 1976) told them what the authors' objective was: to distort one's own view as only part of reality and to eliminate distortions by improved information.

Rudolf Strauch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 September 1979)

The roller skate causes a legal headache

The roller skate fad is causing legal problems. Bavaria's Minister of the Interior Gerold Tandler, says: "We are confronted with problems of traffic legalities that our fathers never dreamt of."

The minister has therefore introduced laws governing the position of the skate in traffic.

In terms of this law, skates are not a road vehicle, but have the same status as sleds and children's scooters. As a result, skates require no lights.

But skaters must be guided by road regulations. Pedestrians must not be endangered or hampered.

Herr Tandler said that he does not view the roller skate fever as a malady but as a healthy habit worthy of promotion.

Contrary to the new guidelines for skaters, the police treated a 21-year-old skater as a vehicle, fining him accordingly for a traffic offence. When he refused to pay, the police pressed charges.

His lawyer has meanwhile said that his client would appear in court as a "vehicle".

ddp/dpa

(Der Tagesspiegel, 25 September 1979)

SPORT

30 years since Olympic body was set up

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

The National Olympic Committee for Germany was set up in Bonn on 24 September 1949, the day after the Federal Republic of Germany officially came into being.

First congratulations came in from Vice-Chancellor Franz Blücher, Konrad Adenauer's deputy, closely followed by greetings from Theodor Heuss, the Bonn head of State. Those were the days!

The men who had helped to re-establish organised sport in Germany after the war had waited three years for this day.

They underwent countless difficulties crossing zonal borders to meet in pursuit of the Olympic idea, which they hoped would provide a generation that had gone through World War II with a ray of hope.

The 1948 London or 1952 Helsinki Olympics had little to do with money and much to do with dreams of peace and international understanding.

To deny these ideals that motivated organised sport 30 years ago is to belie historical truth.

The National Olympic Committee for Germany did not see itself as successor to the German Olympic Committee, abolished on 1 December 1945 by Allied Control Council Directive No. 23.

But it was certainly intended to perform its predecessor's task of restoring links between German sport and the Olympic movement.

The Committee for Participation by Germany in the 1896 Athens Olympic Games was founded in 1895, so today's 30-year-old NOC goes back 84 years in one form or another.

In 1949 men such as Carl Diem (1882-1962), Peco Bauwens (1886-1963), the Duke of Mecklenburg (1873-1969), Willi Daume (born 1913) and Max Danz (born 1908) had only one ambition: to ensure German participation in the 1952 Helsinki (and Oslo) Olympics.

In 1950 when Karl von Halt was released from Soviet imprisonment in Buchenwald and chose to settle in the Federal Republic he was soon (in January 1951) to be elected NOC chairman.

He took over as chairman from the Duke of Mecklenburg, who was happy to take on unofficial commitments but did not relish official appointments.

Diem and von Halt, neither of them politically-minded men, had shown flexibility in the Third Reich and came in for tough criticism in the early 50s.

But both were held in high repute in Olympic circles and domestic criticism had no international effect. In 1951 Karl von Halt had little difficulty in gaining IOC recognition of his NOC.

This meant Germany could take part in the 1952 Olympics. Von Halt had been an IOC member since 1929 and was a personal friend of Sigfrid Edström and Avery Brundage, IOC chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

He soon had GDR sports officials, who completely lacked Olympic experience (as did the Soviet Union), on the defensive. The result was all-German Olympic teams at Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo.

Team selection was part of what, from 1951 to 1965, were diplomatically termed intra-German squabbles. And choosing the teams for six Olympics (summer and winter) was no easy task.

Between 1951 and 1964 there were about 260 rounds of East-West talks on the subject.

All-German team selection for the 1964 Innsbruck and Tokyo Olympics, for instance, took 14 rounds of negotiations at NOC level, 96 talks between representatives of the respective sports associations and 60 qualifying tournaments of fixtures.

In the middle of these often sub-zero talks on whether East or West Germany was to have majority representation in the joint Olympic team Karl von Halt retired in 1961.

His place was taken by Essen iron dealer Willi Daume, whom writer Rudolf Hagelstange once called "the careful pilot of German sport."

Herr Daume is still NOC chairman. He has held office longer than any of his 11 predecessors since 1895.

In 1965 the all-German Olympic team ceased to exist, so he decided as a counterweight to step up his country's Olympic commitments. He was instrumental in ensuring IOC approval of Munich's bid to host the 1972 Olympics.

In his 18 years at the helm he has made a most personal mark on the way the NOC, a true civic pressure group, is run.

It works noiselessly but effectively. It makes no untoward intellectual claims but exerts gratifying international influence and enjoys a worldwide reputation.

Karl Adolf Scherer

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 30 September 1979)



Entrants in the international regatta at Travemünde.

(Photo: Hans Kripgans)

German yachtsmen take three championships

West German yachtsmen won three of the six Olympic-class titles at the international regatta at Travemünde, on the Baltic.

They were Wolfgang Gerz in the Finn dinghy, Alexander Hagen and Vincent Hösch in the Star and former world champions and Olympic bronze medallists Jörg Spengler and Jörg Schmall in the Tornado.

Twins Erik and Sjord Vollebregt from Holland won the Flying Dutchman title. Michel Kermanec and Jean Champy from France won the 470. Philip Crebbin, Mark Dowlands and Barry Dunning of Britain won the Soling.

The Vollebregt brothers were well clear of the field in the Flying Dutchman but on a glorious final day with sunshine and a steady force three northwesterly breeze there were thrilling finishes in the other events.

The outcome was closest in the Star, where crews were evidently so nervous that there were two false starts. When the all clear was finally given the favourites still never lost sight of each other.

Yet after the first buoy Hagen and Hösch were ninth, whereas Eckart Wagner and Jörg Mössnang, their Bavarian rivals, were trailing at 14th.

The Lübeck crew came in sixth, and although the Bavarians too moved forward to ninth place past the post, it was not enough to snatch victory from defeat.

Wolfgang Gerz in the Finn dinghy sailed a tactically astute race on the heels of his closest competitor, Graham Deegan of New Zealand. Gerz came in second, behind Deegan, but that was enough to ensure the title win.

Otto Pohlmann from Berlin and Thomas Jungblut from Hamburg came third and fourth. They are obviously keen to qualify for next year's Olympic regatta in Tallinn. It is gratifying to see such promising newcomers after a long spell in the doldrums.

In the 470 Wolfgang Hunger and Nils Körte from Kiel won the final race, coming fourth overall.

Since the Oetken brothers from Frankfurt had come third (and Kermanec and Champy second), they were no longer able to pip the French champions at the post in the overall classification.

Albert and Rudolf Batzill, from Friedrichshafen, won the final Flying Dutchman race, but Blake and Houchin of Britain came second, making sure they were runners-up to the Vollebregt brothers in the overall rating.

But one consolation for the Batzill brothers was that they came in ahead of their cousin, Olympic gold medallist Jörg Diesch, in the Olympic qualification.

In the Tornado Spengler and Schmall benefited from David King of Britain, the previous day's winner, being disqualified (as was fellow-countryman Mike Martin) for not carrying the required anchor.

In the Soling, Willi Kuhweide came sixth, but that was enough to assure him of the runner-up's slot. Two of his closest rivals, Bandolowski of Denmark and Simonds of Britain, came completely unstuck in the final race.

Kuno C. M. Peters

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 30 September 1979)

Tables are turned in national acrobatic cycling titles

Gerhard Obert from Mannheim, a former world champion at indoor cycling of the artistic or acrobatic variety, threw down the gauntlet.

Franz Kratochvil, the reigning German and world champion, took up the challenge at the national championships in Moers, near Düsseldorf.

A week before the championships Obert, a mechanical engineer, set up a new world record of 327.3 points in Worms, beating Kratochvil.

But the 22-year-old modern languages student turned the tables in Moers, winning his second national championship.

His six-minute routine was safely performed and earned him 325.35 points, or less than two points short of the new world record.

Both men have entered for the world championships, to be held in Strasbourg, France, at the end of October.

Now world champion Gabi Höhler has retired, national coach Pfeiffer will have to enter the new national champion Regine Jiskra and ex-GDR ace Gudrun Lorenz against Anne Matouskova of Czechoslovakia at Strasbourg.

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(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 1 October 1979)



Franz Kratochvil wins his second national title.

(Photo: Horstmüller)